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FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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'ARAFAT MEETS WITH BREZHNEV, LEAVES MOSCOW 10 MAR

For TASS and Moscow Radio accounts of a meeting on 9 March between Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and of 'Arafat's departure from Moscow on 10 March, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 10 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

'Arafat Arrives in GDR

LD100852Y East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0836 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Berlin--A PLO delegation led by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived this morning in the GDR on an official visit. It was invited by the SED Central Committee.

At Schoenefeld airport the guests were cordially welcomed by Gerhard Gruneberg, Politburo member and secretary of the SED Central Committee, and by other personages.

PALESTINIAN SOURCE DENIES RUMORS OF JORDAN DIALOG

JN091848Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 9 Mar 78 JN

[Text] A responsible information source at the Palestinian revolution has announced the following:

In the last few days rumors have circulated about a meeting between the PLO and the Jordanian regime. Some parties have used this topic to harm the clear stands of the PLO regarding the conditions for such a meeting. Raising the subject of dialog with Jordan at this time in particular and in this exaggerated and fabricated form is part of a campaign aimed at questioning the PLO stands.

In fact this topic was proposed to the PLO at the conference of the steadfastness and confrontation front in order to prevent Jordan's drifting behind As-Sadat. This topic was discussed at the last meeting of the PLO Central Council, and it was agreed that any dialog with the Jordanian regime must be based on the following:

1. Jordan's announcement that it abides by the resolutions of the Rabat Conference, which stipulate that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people wherever they live, the right of the Palestinian people to repatriation, self-determination and establishment of their independent state under the PLO.

2. Jordan's denunciation of As-Sadat's capitulatory visit to the Zionist entity, its repercussion and negative effects on the Arab nation.

The excessive talk of the Jordanian regime's organs about this meeting is merely an attempt to sow chaos in the minds of our masses and do harm to the clear and definite stands of the organization. The succumbing of some forces to what is propagated by the organs of the Jordanian regime and some other organs reflects a deliberate creation of confusion and suspicion about the stands of the Palestinian revolution.

The PLO reaffirms the previous conditions which [words indistinct] and repeats that everything achieved will be done with the knowledge of the steadfastness and confrontation front and the Palestinian command.

Habash Opposes PLO Dialog

JN0909385Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 9 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 9 March--Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] Secretary General Dr George Habash has stated that he is against a dialog to reconcile the PLO and the Jordanian regime.

In a statement published in the Lebanese newspaper AS-SAFIR, Habash said the Jordanian regime's stand toward the PLO is part of the U.S. attempts to save the Egyptian regime.

Dr Habash expressed concern about the PLO's attitude on the dialog with the Jordanian regime because this regime should have nothing to do with future of the Palestinian people.

Dr Habash further said that a genuine commitment to Tripoli's Palestinian document means the rupture of all connections with any kind of settlement project.

AMMAN AR-RA'Y: SYRIA-JORDAN TO TALK IN DAMASCUS

JN0906447Y Amman Ah-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Mar 78 p 1 JN

[AR-RA'Y exclusive report]

[Text] Damascus--It has been learned from informed sources that high-level Jordanian-Syrian talks will be held in Damascus soon to deal with the various developments in the Arab situation in particular and the international situation in general.

These sources said that a high-level Jordanian delegation will arrive in Damascus for discussions to coordinate the stand of the two countries concerning the coming phase in light of the talks U.S. Envoy Alfred Atherton held in Amman recently and also in light of the talks Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad held in Moscow.

The Syrian informed sources added that the Jordanian-Syrian talks will aim primarily at strengthening cooperation.

MEXICAN SOCIALIST PARTY, PLO ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT

JN0717287Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 7 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The delegation of the Socialist Workers Party of Mexico has affirmed that a just peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the occupied Arab territories, the full realization of the rights of the Palestinian people, the liberation of their land and the establishment of their democratic state. This came in a joint statement issued today at the conclusion of the visit by the delegation of the Mexican Socialist Party under Comrade (Grago Ramerez) secretary general of the party, to the Palestine Liberation Organization. The following is the text of the joint statement:

During the period from 2 to 6 March, a delegation from the Socialist Workers Party of Mexico under Comrade (Grago Ramerez), secretary general of the party, paid a visit to the PLO. The delegation met with brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the forces of the revolution; brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO political department; and brother Abu Hafiz, official in charge of foreign relations in the Fatah movement. The talks dealt with the various aspects of the Palestinian problem the Middle East issue and the struggle of the Mexican people in various fields.

Comrade [Grago Ramerez] affirmed the [word indistinct] of the Palestinian people's struggle under its sole legitimate representative, the PLO, to regain their full rights, liberate all their land and establish their democratic state. He also affirmed support for the struggle of the Arab nation against imperialism, Zionism and the agents of reaction.

During the talks and discussions with the Mexican delegation the PLO has reiterated the support given by the PLO to the Mexican people in their struggle for independence and national sovereignty against U.S. colonialism and U.S. monopolies, which are exploiting Mexican natural resources. The PLO also reiterated support for the people of Chile in their struggle to regain their rights, to end exploitation and discrimination and to fight against the usurpation of their human rights by U.S. imperialism.

The two sides strongly condemned the sale of Zionist weapons to the military dictatorships in Latin America and supplying them with military expertise to enable them to tighten their grip on their peoples in the service of U.S. imperialism. Viewpoints were similar on supporting the people of Latin America, Africa and Asia against colonialism, imperialism, Zionism and racial discrimination.

During the visit the delegation learned about Palestinian activities in all fields. At the conclusion of the visit the Mexican delegation invited the PLO to attend the conference of the Socialist Workers Party of Mexico, which will be held from 1 to 2 April 1978.

ARAB POPULAR CONFERENCE SESSION OPENS IN TRIPOLI

LD0923?0Y Tripoli JANA in English 1429 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 9th, JANA--At the opening session of the Arab peoples conference, the various delegates delivered speeches reviewing the present situation in the Arab world and its implications in the world. The first to speak was the secretary general of the Arab peoples congress, who pointed out that the Arab nation has been fighting reactionary forces allied to imperialism for many decades. "As representatives of political parties our responsibilities go beyong merely opposing the defeatist line adopted by As-Sadat.... We have to oppose backwardness and reaction in the Arab world, so that we can advance on all fronts, social, economic and political."

For his part the PLO delegate gave an overall account of the armed struggle being waged by the Palestine liberation movement in the occupied territories.

Referring to the situation in the Lebanon, the PLO representative said: "We are facing a vicious campaign aiming at turning our allies against us so that our union with the Lebanese masses will be destroyed."

Nai'm Taddad, member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Council and member of the Ba'th Party affirmed that the "Zionist-imperialist strategy aims at liquidating the national progressive forces in the Arab world so that they can transfer the Middle East to a base serving the interests of imperialism." He went on to say that: "We must adopt a clear and an unwavering strategy to face this onslaught so that we defeat the capitulationist path brought by As-Sadat." Other delegates spoke on the necessity of opposing the As-Sadat initiative. Among them was the representative of the Lebanese national movement who outlined the current situation in the Lebanon.

The delegate from the Jamahiriyah General People's congress, Jouma' al-Fazani, outlined the present alliances in the Arab world and their links in the African Continent. He spoke at great length of the outstanding results of OAU foreign ministers conference recently held in Tripoli. He stressed the importance of reinforcing the links with the African liberation struggle against racism.

The head of the Egyptian delegation spoke of the necessity of exposing the reactionary plots being hatched by As-Sadat against the Arab world and the Egyptian people in particular. "These plots are not new.... They are the continuation of the imperialist strategy since the era of the late President an-Nasir who, however, opposed them vigorously," the Egyptian delegate added. The speaker went on to expose the false 'democracy' the As-Sadat regime claims exists now in Egypt. "This maneuver is designed to detract attention from the real economic problems which the Egyptian regime is facing.... The Egyptian masses have never been so humiliated as when As-Sadat declared his 'open door' policy (of letting foreign capital into Egypt) so that the poor have become poorer." At the end of his speech he expressed great admiration for the Al-Fatah revolution led by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who is playing a very active role in opposing the defeatist course adopted by As-Sadat.

The conference is still in session and the formation of separate committees to deal in specific issues is on today's agenda.

Charges Against As-Sadat

LD092332Y Tripoli JANA in English 1556 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 9, JANA--The Arab peoples conference permanent secretariat yesterday resumed its meetings, at Ash-Shaib Palace auditorium, under the chairmanship of Mr. al-Humaydi, the secretary of the Arab peoples conference permanent secretariat.

The members of the secretariat discussed the bill of indictment prepared by a number of committees of lawyers, politicians and intelligensia. The prelude to this bill dealt with the crime from the legal point, at the Egypt-Palestinian Arab-humane levels. It also gave a brief account on the political charges imputed to the accused and the proceedings deemed necessary for trying him.

It is worth mentioning that there is complete identity of views as regards the content of the bill of indictment and the tempo of trial.

PLO MILITARY CHIEF CALLS FOR MORE AID TO SYRIA

JN081020Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 8 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 8 March--PLO Military Department Chief Zuhayr Muhsin has stressed the need to give every aid to Syria to achieve a strategic balance between Syria and Israel.

He added that such a balance will mean the achievement of practical guarantees for the Palestinian people's rights.

Muhsin further said that it is impossible to guarantee these rights by means of promises and requested the Arabs to give all the aid they have promised in the past.

Muhsin said that the Egyptian campaign against the PLO in particular and the Palestinians in general will have the positive effects of making the Palestinians rally to the PLO and of strengthening the rapprochement among the Palestinian resistance factions.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-QABAS published today, Muhsin said the recent Egyptian campaign has eliminated for good As-Sadat's influence among certain Palestinian and also Lebanese circles. Muhsin pointed out that begging the United States to pressure Israel is like praying to the devil and exhorting him to follow a course of righteousness. Muhsin stressed that a settlement in the Middle East is out of the question because As-Sadat's recent initiative disturbed the balance of the conflict with Israel. On the Lebanese situation, Muhsin called for caution and said he expected the sedition and disturbances to flare up again. [passage indistinct]

ARAB ECONOMIC UNITY COUNCIL TO MEET IN KUWAIT

JN081102Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 8 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 8 March--Arab Economic Unity Council Secretary General Dr 'Abd al-'Al as-Sakban today left Baghdad for Kuwait to attend the meetings of the 30th session of the council which will open on Saturday. Dr as-Sakban said the council will discuss a new item of special character connected with Arab economic relations and Arab-international relations with a view to setting up a new Arab economic order which will help promote the role of the Arab countries in setting up the new world economic order.

BAGHDAD VOP COMMENTS ON ASSASSINATION OF PALESTINIAN

JN092010Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] The so-called Abu Sa'id was killed yesterday by several bullets in the head at the Dahr al-Baydar area on the Beirut-Damascus highway. Press reports said that Abu Sa'id sustained serious injuries as he was passing through the area when his car was fired at from a pursuing car. He was transferred to the Tal Shiha hospital where he died. The reports said that one of his companions was killed instantly and another was seriously wounded.

Lebanese press reports say that initial information about the incident indicates the likelihood that the killing is a settling of accounts between the 'Arafat leadership and the Abu Sa'id group. The reports also say that the perpetrators of the killing are from 'Arafat's security police. The names of Abu al-Hawl, Raji and Hawari have been mentioned by the newspapers in this regard.

LEBANON DENIES ARRIVAL OF PALESTINIANS FROM EGYPT

NC071551Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 7 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 7 March--Faruq Abu al-Lam', director of the Lebanese public security, has denied rumors about the arrival in Lebanon of Palestinians from Egypt via the southern seaports.

Abu al-Lam' made this statement today after meeting with Lebanese Charge d'Affaires in Cairo Zaydan Zaydan to discuss these rumors.

Abu al-Lam' confirmed that no groups of Palestinians were recorded to have arrived from Egypt. He noted that rumors estimated these Palestinians as numbering between 50,000 and 70,000, while the actual number of Palestinians in Egypt does not exceed 30,000.

BAHRAIN

HEIR APPARENT RETURNS TO MANAMA FROM IRAN VISIT

NC091935Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1855 GMT 9 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Manama, 9 March--Bahraini Heir Apparent and Defense Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa al-Khalifah returned to Manama from Teheran tonight after a 3-day visit to Iran.

KUWAIT

OFFICIAL EXPLAINS GOVERNMENT POLICY ON VISAS

JN090853Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 9 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 9 March--An authoritative Kuwaiti source has explained that limiting the granting of visas to enter Kuwait is strictly an organizational procedure of the process of entry and that there is no danger of any kind to the entry of citizens from the occupied West Bank to Kuwait. The explanation followed a report published yesterday by the newspaper AL-QUDS, which is published in occupied Jerusalem, to the effect that Kuwait does not permit West Bank citizens to enter Kuwait and that the Kuwaiti Embassy in Amman has stopped issuing visas for Kuwait. The paper also said that Egypt is preventing the entry of Palestinians and that the UAE Embassy in Amman does not issue entry visas to the West Bank citizens.

QATAR

AMIR RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SOMALI PRESIDENT

NC041525Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 4 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Doha, 4 March--The Qatari amir, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, today received a message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre concerning recent developments in the Horn of Africa, questions of mutual interest and bilateral relations between the two countries. Somali Culture and Higher Education Minister Omar Arteh Ghalib handed the message to the amir during a meeting with him today.

SAUDI ARABIA

CROWN PRINCE INTERVIEWED BY KUWAITI PAPER

NC091603Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 9 March--Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and first deputy prime minister, has granted an interview to the Kuwaiti paper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM. In the interview he said that it would be possible to consider recognizing Israel within the framework of a unified Arab stand if a comprehensive and just solution to the Middle East question is achieved and if the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland are restored. The following is the text of the interview, which the paper published today:

Question: Can you tell us the nature of the main points in Your Highness' discussions with his majesty the shah of Iran on the questions raised?

Answer: Fraternal ties exist between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran. These are several ties, including religion, neighborliness and joint interests. All this has created a close relationship between us and fraternal Iran and his majesty the shah of Iran. His majesty has always shown an alert understanding of all the issues which we discuss, including current issues and particularly those of interest to the two countries. Our positions during such discussions have always been made public, either in the form of official communiques or in statements made after such meetings.

Question: What is Your Highness' opinion on the holding of another conference of the rejectionist states--the national rejection front--in Baghdad? Did your discussions with President Boumediene deal with the attitude of the rejectionist states and with the aspects of this attitude as far as the peaceful solution and President as-Sadat's initiative in going to Jerusalem are concerned? Did you discuss the attitude toward the results of this initiative, which, it appears, has reached a deadlock because of Israeli obduracy?

Answer: As a matter of principle, I very much want the Arabs' opinion to be unanimous under all circumstances and all conditions surrounding the Arab nation. It is my opinion that the disagreements which surface now and then in the Arab arena do not affect the ability of the Arab nation to unite in one rank when the situation becomes serious. President Boumediene has explained the attitude of the Tripoli conference toward the events. We understand this attitude as we have understood the other views. We have frank, declared and firm stands on the Palestinian questions and the PLO, which we consider the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Question: In recent statements Your Highness said that the fraternal kingdom is prepared to recognize Israel if the Arab states recognize it and if the just demands of our nation are met. Would it be sufficient if this recognition were confined to some of the states concerned or must it include all of them, including the rejectionist states?

Answer: As you know, momentous and decisive stands are not always adopted as a result of individual opinions but as a result of collective decisions adopted at summit meetings within the framework of the Arab League. If the comprehensive and just solution we are advocating is eventually reached, and if this solution leads to Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people in their homeland, and if it enables this people to set up their state on their land, it would then become possible to consider the question of recognizing Israel within the framework of a unified stand adopted by all Arab states.

Question: Could you please tell us whether the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will resume its good efforts in a serious and definite attempt to heal the rift in the Arab ranks and restore Arab solidarity to what it was in 1973 so as to confront the Zionist arrogance with a strong Arab position?

Answer: It has been the policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, since the era of its founder, King 'Abd al-'Aziz, may God bless his soul, to work very enthusiastically for the unity of Arab views and ranks and for Arab amity and harmony, rather than division and disagreement. We are resolutely and seriously endeavoring to bridge any gap that appears in the Arab ranks because we believe that the strength of the Arab lies in their solidarity and agreement.

We never stop exerting such efforts. We always appeal to the Arab brothers to bury their differences, to unite their ranks, to be aware of the grave dangers that threaten them and to realize that whenever they disagree they open themselves to serious fragmentation, God forbid.

Question: Should war with Israel to regain the rights by force become inevitable in the event of the complete failure of the peace initiatives, will, in Your Highness' opinion, the oil battle [as received] be useful this time as it was in Ramadan 1973?

Answer: At this particular time we must talk about peace, not war. We are advocates of peace, always. At this historic juncture the whole world is looking forward to peace. This is why under the present circumstances we do not give credence to the other ugly aspect. This does not mean that we rule it out, but we want to help promote the right atmosphere for peace. Indeed, a lot has been said about oil but we want to stress our desire to use it in the service of mankind and mankind's civilization and progress. We have always borne this fact in mind from the beginning. While being interested in everything that is good for all mankind, we want in return for civilization everywhere to understand the importance of our just causes and to realize that the Arab people seek justice in order to be a constructive element in human society.

Question: Do you believe that the Arabs can fight without Egypt or that Egypt can make peace and settle its problems with Israel in isolation from the Arabs?

Answer: When the Arabs embark on peace, we wish them all to do so together, and when we raise the banner of war, all Arabs should come under this banner. I cannot imagine the Arabs fighting without Egypt and I cannot imagine Egypt making peace with Israel and solving its problems with it in isolation from the Arabs, because His Excellency President as-Sadat himself has ruled out the possibility of that ever happening.

Question: What does Your Highness think of Begin's recent peace plan and do you believe he will retract anything from it?

Answer: I have previously said that the kingdom has definite and declared positions on the Palestine question. It is natural that we do not approve what does not agree with these positions.

RIYADH ASSAILS FREE WORLD FOR IGNORING HORN

LD061430Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Mar 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The Western Somali Liberation Front [WSLF] and the Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF] are waging a liberation war against Ethiopian colonialism, which is claiming that the region of Western Somalia and the region of Eritrea are part of Abyssinia and that the struggle of the fronts is but a form of secessionist movements. The Ethiopian leaders and the wholeworld know that these two regions were merged with Abyssinia as a gift by those who had no right to make the gift--namely colonialism, which had invaded all Africa, including greater Somalia.

Now that the peoples of the two regions want to liberate their land and to regain full freedom, the authorities of Addis Ababa, backed by the communist forces represented in thousands of Cuban soldiers and hundreds of Soviet advisers, are standing in the face of and are crushing this will, to retain their colonialism of the two peoples, who for a long time remained under the yoke of Abyssinian colonialism. [words indistinct] The Marxist regime in Addis Ababa is seeking to keep the peoples of the two regions of Western Somalia and Eriteria colonized, although historic facts and evidence confirm that at no time have these two regions belonged to Abyssinia, but that they are two Arab Moslem peoples and have remained so despite attempts to obliterate their Arabism.

This posture by the Ethiopian rulers is not strange, for it is the posture of their main aims. But what is odd is the posture taken by some of the Western countries or by some African states which claim Ethiopia has the right to regain the regions of Western Somalia and Eriteria, most of which have been liberated, although international codes grant the right to struggle and to liberate the land and regain legitimate rights, including granting these two regions the right to self-determination without outside pressures or interference.

Now that postures have become clear and the region of Western Somalia once again is being threatened with falling into the hands of the Ethiopian invaders and Soviet communists, the world is called upon to back the people of Western Somalia to regain their freedom and self-determination. It is also called upon to adopt a resolute attitude that would prevent turning the Horn of Africa region into a new Vietnam and starting point for communism and communists in the whole African Continent. History will not forgive the world, especially the free world, its disinterested posture regarding the development of the bloody and grave events in Ogaden. The Somalis and the Eritreans only want their freedom and harbor no hostile designs against anyone and do not aspire to expansion at the expense of others. Let the world wake up and support Somali rights and halt the Red invasion of the black continent.

KING KHALID RECEIVES BOURGUIBA'S SON, MESSAGE

LD051912Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz this afternoon received in audience Mr Habib Bourguiba Jr, personal adviser to President Bourguiba of Tunisia, who conveyed a verbal message from President Bourguiba to His Majesty King Khalid. The meeting was attended by Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; and by Mr Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy. Mr Habib Bourguiba Jr arrived in Riyadh today for a visit to the kingdom due to last several days.

YEMEN--YAR

AL-GHASHMI VISITS ARMY UNITS IN NORTHERN REGION

JN072139Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, Command Council chairman and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, today visited the northern region where a number of army units are preparing for a military maneuver. The commander in chief was received by the commander of the maneuver, the officers and the men, who briefed him on the maneuver.

The commander in chief thanked them for their efforts in training efficient soldiers to serve the nation and the citizens. The training of the Yemeni soldier, he said, has reached the level of any soldier in the Arab homeland. He said the armed forces is the vanguard which defends the popular achievements which [words indistinct]. The commander in chief thanked the officers and men and wished them success in shouldering their responsibilities.

The commander in chief inspected the various weapons that will be employed in the maneuver and was briefed on their use in battle. He also made some observations that will contribute to the success of the maneuver.

YAR, FINLAND TO ESTABLISH AMBASSADORIAL RELATIONS

JN021256Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Mar 78 JN

[Text] In accord with the desire to develop relations of friendship and understanding between Finland and the Yemen Arab Republic, the two governments have decided to establish normal diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of next March [as heard]. The Yemeni and Finnish governments are confident that friendly relations between the two countries will be strengthened in the interest of the two peoples.

BRIEFS

NEW ENVOYS TO KUWAIT--This morning the amir received the credentials of the Moroccan ambassador to Kuwait, Mr Abdelhedi Sbihi, and the ambassador of Afghanistan to Kuwait, Mr Abdollah Malekyar. [Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Mar 78 LD]

SAUDI OFFICIAL IN TAIWAN--The prime minister of Taiwan yesterday received Prince Majid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of municipal and rural affairs, who arrived last Monday on an 8-day visit to Nationalist China at the invitation of the Chinese minister of economy. [Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD]

PDRY-ETHIOPIA AIR AGREEMENT--President Salim Rubayyi' today issued Law No 11 of 1978, promulgating the PDRY-Ethiopian agreement on air links which was signed in Aden on 14th January 78. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD/EA]

AS-SADAT RECEIVES ROMANIAN DEFENSE MINISTER

NC091903Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat today received Romanian Defense Minister Col Gen Ion Coman. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad 'Abd a -Ghani al-Jamasi and Romanian Ambassador in Cairo Petru Burlaco.

AGERPRES Report

LD092056Y Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1939 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, 9 March AGERPRES--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat of the Arab Republic of Egypt, received on March 9, Colonel-General Ion Coman, minister of national defence of Romania, who is visiting that country. President as-Sadat expressed satisfaction at the permanently upward course of the Egyptian-Romanian relations, showing that every measure will be taken for the intensification and diversification of the cooperation between Egypt and Romania in all spheres of activity. Official talks started in Cairo between Colonel-General Ion Coman, minister of national defence of Romania, and Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, deputy premier and minister of war and war production of Egypt.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES FOREIGN MINISTER KAMIL

NC091902Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 9 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 March--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today received Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil.

KAMIL SEES BRITISH AMBASSADOR ON CYPRUS EVENTS

NC091232Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1221 GMT 9 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 March--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has received British Ambassador in Cairo Willie Morris. It has been learned that the discussions during the meeting dealt with the Cyprus events and the consequent severance of relations between Egypt and Cyprus. The discussiona also dealt with current developments in the Middle East and relations between the two countries.

CAIRO REPORTS AS-SADAT NEW YORK TIMES INTERVIEW

NC091442Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Mar 78 NC

[Text] In an interview given to New York TIMES columnist James Reston, President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat said it is about time for President Carter to define his attitude to break the diplomatic stalemate in the Middle East.

In the interview, which is published in Thursday's edition of the New York TIMES, President as-Sadat said the United States must shoulder its responsibility as a partner and not a mediator in the talks. The president added that peace is much dearer than a piece of land and President Carter must apply what he has already declared in the fields of human rights and the inadmissibility of the seizure of the lands of others, which is a moral issue.

President as-Sadat declared his determination to carry on the peace initiative in the Middle East, saying that he will not abandon those who have supported him at home and abroad.

President as-Sadat said he could understand it if Begin had rejected his visit to Jerusalem on the basis that Israel needed more time to prepare for such a step. He said: I want President Carter to inform them in Israel that in regard to security, Egypt has a security demand too, since the United States has provided Israel with the most modern conventional arms arsenal in the world.

President as-Sadat said that after it had become clear that U.S. roving Ambassador Alfred Atherton's mission was not making progress, As-Sadat personally contacted Begin in the hope of convincing him to make new efforts to reconcile their attitudes toward the problem. The president expressed hope that these personal contacts would lead to a change in Begin's view before his arrival in Washington. The president said that Begin has rejected his views and that he will reply to Begin in the next few days.

The president added that Begin has misled Israeli public opinion regarding Egypt's attitude toward the Sinai passes and the Israeli settlements. He said that the great opportunity for establishing peace is about to be lost because there has not been a quicker response to it. He added that a great change has occurred in the Middle East following the Jerusalem visit. He said it seems that Israel has not grasped the fact that Egypt alone is capable of determining war or peace in the Middle East and that Egypt is the biggest Arab country and it is the country that will decide on war or peace.

President as-Sadat noted that the Middle East is now linked by cordial ties with the United States--something which has not happened before. He said: We used to anticipate confrontation all the time but now there is deep confidence, which, I believe, is a very important step in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Referring to his meeting with President Carter and his meetings with European leaders during his recent tour, President as-Sadat said: I met with President Carter in February and we discussed the establishment of peace, normal peace. Three topics were on the agenda. They were the territories occupied during the 1967 war, the nature of peace and the Palestinian question.

We disagreed with him on the first topic, the occupied Arab territories. We spent hours and hours discussing the second topic, the nature of peace. President Carter told As-Sadat Begin wants to establish diplomatic relations with Egypt, open borders and normal relations.

President as-Sadat said: When we started the process of negotiations, I said: Let us agree on the general guidelines governing our course in the peace process. I did not say that they must withdraw from the territories before everything is solved--not at all. I said: Israel must announce its readiness to return the territories it occupied during the 1967 war on the basis of every side sitting at the negotiation table having the right to discuss the security question.

President as-Sadat called for perseverance and hope in the endeavor to establish peace in the Middle East. He also expressed hope that Begin will one day realize that As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem created a new concept and a chance for establishing peace in the area. The president noted that there is no clear indication that Begin has grasped these new facts. The president said that Begin will not do this unless President Carter submits specific recommendations which Israel will not be able to ignore.

President as-Sadat said that Israel's lifeline comes from the United States.

On the situation in the Horn of Africa, the president wondered what role the United States is playing in confronting the Soviet-Cuban intervention in the area. He said he warned President Carter in April that the Soviet and Cuban aid to Angola was the beginning of the Soviet danger in Ethiopia. The president said no one believed him at the time but the danger has become an existing fact now, not only for Somalia but for Sudan as well and consequently for Egypt itself.

AL-AKHBAR ATTACKS MOSCOW RADIO CAMPAIGN

ID100222Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2358 GMT 9 Mar 78 ID

[Press review on Moscow Radio allegations]

[Text] Cairo, 9 March--In tomorrow's issue AL-AKHBAR comments on Moscow Radio's campaign against Egypt and its allegation that the Palestinians in Egypt are suffering the same way they are suffering under Israeli occupation. The paper says: Moscow Radio has made these allegations and lies against Egypt and its attitude toward the Palestinians at a time when Yasir 'Arafat is visiting Moscow and exchanging love and amity with Soviet leaders "affirming" the consolidation of friendship with the Soviet Union and all the socialist countries." Moscow Radio could have asked 'Arafat about "the attitude of the Egyptian leadership toward the Palestinian people" and broadcast what he said to the public.

The paper says that Egypt alone was hospitable to the Palestinians, gave them preference over its own people in all the activities of life, trade, employment and work and accorded them privileges and priorities in social welfare, education, employment and jobs in preference to Egyptians.

Continuing, the paper says: We wish Moscow Radio had given a single example of what it alleges to be evidence or partial evidence of its claims, so that the people would believe it. But Moscow Radio lies and knows that it is lying in a mad campaign filled with hatred and anger against Egypt.

The paper adds: We wish Moscow Radio had mentioned a single incident to prove its allegations and to corroborate what this communist trumpet says. Was it Egypt who assassinated Palestinian strugglers in various places? Was it Egypt who killed Abu Sa'id in an ambush [words indistinct]?

The paper adds: Moscow Radio knows, as does Yasir 'Arafat, who is on a pilgrimage to Moscow, that it has been Egypt alone that shouldered the burden of the Palestinian people, that it has fought and struggled so that this people will have an entity and existence. It has struggled so that the PLO will have an entity and existence in the world community and international circles.

If Moscow Radio wants to speak the truth, the paper continues, then it must tell the people that the Soviet Union was the first country to recognize Israel, that it was the first to establish an Israeli settlement on Palestinian territory, that it has been using the Palestinians as a tool serving its own designs and ambitions and that it was the one that turned the PLO into a tool of terror to achieve its ends and ambitions. But Moscow Radio is lying and is not ashamed of lies. The latest of its lies is its allegation that the "Soviet public opinion denounces."

When has there been a Soviet public opinion?" the paper asks.

ARREST OF PALESTINIAN COMMUNISTS REPORTED

LD092154Y Cairo JARIDAT MISR in Arabic 7 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Text] JARIDAT MISR has learned that a secret communist organization has been arrested in Asyut. All its members are Palestinian students in Asyut University.

The security authorities in Asyut arrested some Palestinian students in the university distributing hostile leaflets. The number of arrested has reached 17, all of whom are students in Asyut University who has formed a secret communist organization. Those arrested have been taken to Cairo for investigation in order to find the rest of the organization's members and the sources of its finances.

AL-AHRAM EDITOR ANALYZES EGYPTIAN-PLO RELATIONS

LD071832Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 3 March 78 pp 1, 3 LD

[Chief editor Hamdi al-Jammal article: "We and the PLO"]

[Excerpts] I believe the time has come for us to take an objective look at the relations between Egypt and the PLO leadership or, more precisely, those who lead the PLO.

It is no longer acceptable or logical that Egypt should remain silent over the nonsense, the irresponsible and blatantly unethical statements that are being made by some of these people for reasons that, I believe, are no longer a secret to any Arab citizen or anyone following the situation in the Arab area.

In order to understand what has led PLO leaders--or some of them--to the state they are in, the political bankruptcy in which they find themselves and their efforts to conceal this situation with reckless statements, we have to recall the past. The reckless statements they are making only indicate that the ground is shaking under their feet.

When the Palestinian revolution began to emerge and was born, the nationalist Arab regimes --foremost of all Egypt--hastened to welcome it and to give it all the aid it needed in order to enable it to act, to move and to prove its existence as a living symbol of the Palestinian revolution.

Like any revolution, at the beginning it was impossible to avoid making mistakes on the grounds that the experiment should go through stages before it could face different situations. Nevertheless, the Arab nationalist regimes, foremost of which was Egypt, accepted such mistakes in a nationalist spirit and overlooked them because of their solicitude for the revolution's progress on its path and for protecting the Palestinian struggle against any difficulties it might face.

Egypt--and Egypt alone--begun fostering the Palestinian revolution as represented by the PLO. Egypt began giving it the support and backing that it never had dreamed of obtaining.

Egypt enabled the revolution to enter the United Nations and backed Yasir 'Arafat's address to the world from the General Assembly rostrum.

Egypt exerted pressure on European, Asian and African countries to recognize the PLO and to allow it to open offices in their capitals.

Egypt was behind all the political and moral gains the PLO achieved internationally.

What were the PLO leaders doing while Egypt was doing all this?

They were arguing among themselves and became divided into different organizations with conflicting views and policies.

They were--and still are--fighting one another, with each group trying to liquidate the other.

Some of the Arab regimes took the opportunity to attract these groups to them so as to benefit from their disputes. We began to hear about an organization belonging to the Syrian Ba'th Party, another to the Iraqi Ba'th Party, a third to the Soviet Union and a fourth exhausting Libyan funds with the help of Al-Qadhdhafi.

Some of the shaky Arab regimes began exploiting the PLO nad using it as a means of strengthening themselves internally at the expense of the future and effectiveness of the Palestinian revolution.

Egypt refused to have a Palestinian organization affiliated with it because it did not and will not exploit the Palestinian problem. Egypt supports the Palestinian revoluton as a matter of principle and not as a quest of its own party interests.

Some of the PLO leaders imagined that they had become the emperors and masters of the Arab arena.

This went on until the glorious October war broke out and the Egyptian armed forces achieved a victory for the Palestinan revolution that it never dreamed of. The Egypt, with reason and astuteness, began to impose the Palestinian revolution on world opinion--particularly in the United States--as a basic problem and not just a refugee problem.

The regrettable Lebanese war then broke out and the Syrian Ba'th took this opportunity to impose complete control on the PLO, which readily surrendered itself to this party. The PLO did not find the courage to resist such control and therefore submitted to it completely.

While the Syrian Ba'th, the Iraqi Ba'th, the Soviet Union and Al-Qadhdhafi were fighting the battle of controlling the destiny of the Palestinian revolution, Egypt was throwing all its weight behind the efforts to restore the rights of the Palestinian people fully.

The PLO, because of its weakness and the feebleness of some of its leaders, surrendered to the domination of these powers and took part in accusing Egypt of selling out the cause following the signing of the first and second disengagement agreements.

Because of their ignorance they imagined that Egypt's silence over these trivialities was weakness, forgetting that, because of its national, Arab and international weight, Egypt is far above paying attention to such trivialities and is proceeding along its path of championing and defending the Palestinian problem and struggling for its sake even before championing its own cause and defending its occupied territories.

President as-Sadat undertook a historic trip to Jerusalem, but the PLO leaders did not understand--or were influenced by those controlling their destinies--the real significance of the visit. They did not understand that it took place for the sake of Palestine and the future of the Palestinian people.

Everything that has happened since and is happening now confirms this significance and the great national objective that lies behind it. And yet they have not learned the lesson of the disengagement agreement and are still reiterating what they are being asked to reiterate, not in the interest of the Arab cause or of the Palestinian people but rather in the interest of agent regimes in the area and some of the mad ones who are trying to buy power and influence with their people's money.

When Yasir 'Arafat says that Egypt has come to believe that the Palestinian problem constitutes a burden for it, we tell him that such talk is sheer hallucination. The real burden is the burden which some of the PLO leaders pose for the Palestinian cause and the future of the Palestinian people.

The state of loss in which the PLO and all the rejectionist countries find themselves and their failure to achieve the Palestinian objectives are the burden and the tragedy that now weigh heavily on the Palestinian people. The slogans that Yasir 'Arafat and some of his colleagues are now reading are dictated to them by Damascus, Baghdad, Moscow and Tripoli. They are the shackles that tie the hands and feet of the Palestinian people.

There is one more word to be said. The PLO is no longer the wife of Caesar, who is above suspicion. This stage was passed when the PLO became the wife of more than one Caesar.

The PLO is not the cause. The Palestinian people cannot be responsible for the mistakes of the PLO leaders, for they have to bear the consequences of their mistakes and affiliations. They must realize that the loyalty of each organization to a different capital is diametrically opposed to their loyalty to the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people, on whose behalf they claim to speak.

Egypt will not remain silent over the mistakes of the PLO leaders, and every one of them must bear responsibility for the statements he utters.

Egypt considers itself directly responsible--nationally and in the Arab and international arena--for the cause of the Palestinian people, the defense of their rights and their restoration to this people.

Egypt will not abandon its role and will not renege on its duty as some or all the agents in the area--inside and outside the PLO--are trying to portray, exploiting the cause so that it remains a source of profit and power for them.

AL-AHRAM WRITER ADVOCATES NEUTRALITY FOR EGYPT

LD092340Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 3 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Tawfiq al-Hakim article: "Neutrality"]

[Excerpts] Egypt will never know rest, nor achieve stability and be able to feed the hungry except through one way: This way would enable it to spend its money on feeding the hungry and the needy and direct its attention to the well-being of the spirit and the mind in an atmosphere of freedom, security and safety. This objective can never be reached as long as money and efforts are being squandered for purposes that are far removed from satisfying the people's demands or because of foreign and international problems resulting from personal and selfish ambitions. Therefore, what is the road to the oasis of rest and stability and to nourishing the stomach, the spirit and the mind?

This lush and flowering oasis is called "neutrality."

Yes, Egypt's real future lies in a neutrality similar to that of Switzerland and Austria, the neutrality that spared them the disputes and quarrels that have thrown many countries into the turbulent seas of conflicting policies. The world recognized the neutrality of Switzerland and Austria despite the fact that the justifications of their neutrality are of much less benefit to the world than those of Egypt's. This is in view of the following points:

The justification of neutrality for the world: These justifications are dictated by Egypt's geographical position in that it owns the Suez Canal, which must always remain open for the benefit of the whole world. The canal should not be closed from time to time, since such closure causes economic crises for the world. These justifications also lie in Egypt's cultural position. It is the only country in the world that is considered--and rightfully so--the "world museum" because it embodies most of the relics of all cultures. It holds the relics of the pharaohs, the Greeks, the Romans, Christianity and Islam.

A culture belonging to the whole world: Because the cultural relics of the history of mankind are in Egypt, the world has considered that they belong to all the countries. For this reason, all the countries have contributed with their efforts and funds to transferring and repairing the temple of Abu Simbil. Therefore, any destruction of this world museum as a result of political problems or military ventures will have serious intellectual and cultural consequences for the whole world similar to the consequences of the disruption of the world's vital economic lifeline--namely, the Suez Canal. Therefore the whole world would welcome and guarantee "Egypt's neutrality."

Egypt is the heart of Arabism: Just as Egypt is the world museum it is also the cultural heart of the Arabs. All cultural progress it achieves belongs to the Arabs and Arabism. All its universities, schools, teachers, scientists, men of letters, artists, museums, relics, theaters, the Nile River, shores, hotels, banks, people, workers and farmers--everything in it belongs to the Arabs and is in their service.

The Egyptian Army: As for the Egyptian Army, it must be a strong defensive army equipped with the latest weapons, not for attack and aggression but for defending its neutrality so that no power can dare to encroach on a single inch of its territory.

The idea of neutrality: I am aware that the idea of neutrality is not on the mind of our government nor is it in the program of any our political parties. It is a personal opinion of mine which no one can stop me from believing in and declaring, particularly at this time when we are enjoying the freedom of opinion.

My opinion, in which I believe and which I will continue to advocate, is neutrality for Egypt. This neutrality is essential for it and beneficial for its Arab brothers.

Egypt's neutrality will make it the compassionate mother of everybody. Egypt will no longer feel that it is constantly held in pledge and that its future and entity are pawned in the "mortgage bank" of conflicts and problems that impede its efforts to feed its people and achieve progress beneficial to itself and its brothers.

I am aware of the difficulties involved on this road because there are individuals, groups and states that want to involve Egypt in the battle in order to use it for their own interests or against other parties. But those who are really loyal to Egypt and who impartially see the benefit to our area and to humanity will see that this opinion is fully justified. Today I am presenting this opinion for consideration by all honest and sincere people everywhere. I will not stop working for its sake and I shall stand with any individual, party or body that that will embrace it, take interest in it and adopt it as a program.

TUNISIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION ARRIVES

NC091723Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1633 GMT 9 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 March--Tunisian National Assembly Speaker Sadok Mokaddem and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo from Tunis today for a visit of several days to attend the meetings of the African parliamentary conference, which will begin on 15 March and last 2 days.

AL-BAKR SENDS MESSAGE TO POPE ON ARCHBISHOP CAPUCCI

JN091205Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 9 March--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has stressed the importance of Archbishop Hilarion Capucci remaining the bishop of Jerusalem and near his kinfolk and homeland so that he can continue his humanitarian mission.

In a message to Pope Paul, President al-Bakr expresses profound gratitude for the great efforts his holiness exerted to achieve the release of Archbishop Capucci. President al-Bakr stressed his confidence in the pope's response to the desire of the sons of the Arab homeland in general, and the Palestinians in particular, that Capucci return home.

The message also stresses the confidence that the intention to divest Capucci of his title as bishop of Jerusalem will receive the attention and care of his holiness the pope.

The following is the text of the message:

Greetings: We have been informed of the intention to divest Archbishop Capucci of the title of bishop of Jerusalem and to assign to him a religious mission outside his homeland.

We feel that the relations of strong friendship linking Iraq with the Vatican allow us to stress to Your Holiness the importance of Archbishop Capucci's presence. Archbishop Capucci was only carrying out his normal duty to the sons of his homeland. This is the duty dictated by the teachings of heavenly religions and their sublime humanitarian mission. It was also dictated by his feeling of responsibility for achieving justice, which also requires him to be near his kinfolk and homeland so that he may continue his good efforts in this connection.

We are confident that the sons of the Arab homeland in general, and the Palestinians in particular, who consider Archbishop Capucci as the symbol of their bitter struggle for their just cause, feel profound gratitude for the great efforts Your Holiness exerted to effect the release of Archbishop Capucci. They are also confident that you will kindly respond to their dear desire that Archbishop Capucci return to his homeland.

We trust that this matter will receive attention and care from Your Holiness. Please accept our highest appreciations and respects.

ATH-THAWRAH CALLS FOR HIGHER OIL PRICES, ATTACKS MEXICO

JN101050Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1008 GMT 10 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 10 March--The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH today stresses that replacing the dollar with anything else will not radically solve the problems arising from the dollar's declining value and the effects of such a decline on oil revenues.

The Iraqi Ba'th Party organ adds in today's commentary on the emergency session the OPEC members will be holding in Geneva on 3 April to study such problems that the correct solution to the problem lies in increasing oil prices so that they may keep pace with the declining value of the dollar and the inflation which the capitalist world is suffering from these days.

ATH-THAWRAH also attacks the decision taken by the Mexican president to supply the Zionist enemy with oil and describes this decision in a commentary today as another hostile stand taken by the Mexican president with U.S. imperialist encouragement against the Arab nation's just struggle.

ATH-T[illegible] says: The Mexican president opened his country's door to U.S. monopolies and Zionist capital from the day he assumed power and is implementing the role U.S. imperialism assigned him to insure the Zionist enemy's oil needs and to rid the United States of its oil commitments to the enemy.

IRAQ, UNESCO SIGN COOPERATION MEMORANDUM IN BAGHDAD

JN1009102Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 10 March--UNESCO Director General Amadou Mokhtar M'Bow and the delegation accompanying him today concluded a 5-day visit to Iraq. M'Bow and Muhammad Mahjub, Iraqi Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and minister of education, last night signed the memorandum on the talks the UNESCO delegation held with Iraqi officials.

In two speeches exchanged on the occasion, both sides expressed their satisfaction with the fruitful cooperation between Iraq and UNESCO. It was noted that Iraq appreciates and is proud of UNESCO's humanitarian mission in combating colonialism and racism and serving the caus of cooperation and friendship among peoples. Mahjub affirmed in his speech that Iraq's foreign policy is guided by the pan-Arab and humanitarian principles of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and that it is based on persistent work for mobilizing Arab resources in all fields to defend the important pan-Arab issues, above all the Palestine issue.

M'Bow on his part stressed that the fruitful cooperation between Iraq and UNESCO will expand and be consolidated in the future.

The two sides announced in the memorandum their agreement that international cooperation aimed at exchanging expertise among people as well as the mutual assistance which enriches the experiments of peoples are a successful means to resolve the problems posed by growth in the field of education, science, culture and information.

According to the memorandum, the two sides also agreed that the building of a new international economic order is a multifaceted and difficult job in which information constitutes one of the major pillars. They called for a new information system and for providing opportunities in the field of the collection, publication and exchange of information and benefiting from it for the purposes of development and international understanding.

Both sides stressed their interest in sincere cooperation among the developing countries. They asserted that solidarity and cooperation between the Arab and African areas constitutes a vital element in building and developing this cooperation.

The memorandum expresses an identity of views between UNESCO and Iraq on the overall Iraqi concepts and proposals, as well as on the possibility of UNESCO participation, according to an integrated and coordinated program, in the implementation of several projects needed by Iraq in the field of education, culture, science and information.

IRAQI TRANSPORT MINISTER LEAVES FOR BERLIN

JN1009422Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 10 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 10 March--Transport Minister Dr Mukarraw Jamal today left Baghdad for Berlin for a visit to the GDR which will last several days. The Iraqi minister will hold talks with GDR officials with the aim of developing the relations of cooperation between the two countries in the field of transportation.

AL-BAKR NOTES EDUCATION, DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

JN051618Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 5 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 5 March--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has stressed the need to place all the required formulas and practices in the service of the development plan because this plan is a revolutionary process aimed at entrenching and consolidating the national economy and achieving social progress.

During his meeting today with 'Adnan Husayn, RCC member and minister of planning, President al-Bakr called for comprehensive practices in democratic relations to insure the broadest effective participation by the official and popular organs in implementing the objectives necessary for the overall development and in achieving the necessary increases in the growth rate in general.

During his visit to the College of Engineering, President al-Bakr stressed the need to admit more students in accordance with the requisites of the new social building and its social and economic transformations.

President al-Bakr focused on the importance of developing educational resources in light of the pan-Arab development plan to insure that our generations are armed with socialist education and absolute faith in the pan-Arab struggle and with scientific-technical capabilities so as to enable them to perform the tasks of progress which our revolution is seeking.

In another meeting with the president of the Baghdad University and the dean of the College of Engineering, President al-Bakr spoke about the importance of achieving close ties between the plans of education and training, on the onehand, and the labor force plan based on coordination and balance, on the other.

President al-Bakr pointed out that under the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Iraq has utilized knowledge and scientific research as a revolutionary tool to develop the spirit of production, uniqueness and changes so as to achieve the building of the new society. This visualization has placed the university education and its role in the forefront in developing society and directing it in line with the needs of the development plan.

BRIEFS

BERLIN YOUTH CONFERENCE--Karim Mahmud, Iraqi youth minister and president of the Iraqi Youth Federation, arrived in Baghdad today after attending the second conference of the Democratic Youth Federation, which was held in Berlin recently. The conference, which included 160 youth organizations from all over the world, condemned Zionism and considered it a form of racism. The conference expressed support for the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their usurped rights and establish their independent state. Iraq was elected a permanent member in the federation's secretariat. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 4 Mar 78 JN]

DELEGATION TO IRAN--Baghdad, 5 March--An Iraqi technical delegation under 'Adnan Mustafa, director general of the Iraqi Interior Ministry, today left for Iran for a visit which will last several days. Mustafa said that the visit of the delegation, which includes officials of the Iraqi interior and foreign ministries, comes within the framework of the developing relations between the two countries and the protocol related to the border agreement concluded between the two countries. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 5 Mar 78 JN]

FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS RECEIVES SOVIET AMBASSADOR

NC091246Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov has stated that his consultations today with Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus were important and useful. The foreign minister met with the Soviet ambassador at 1000 today for a whole hour at the latter's request. After the meeting the Soviet ambassador said his talks with the foreign minister dealt with the current Middle East developments, recent events in Lebanon and bilateral relations between Lebanon and the Soviet Union.

Ambassador Soldatov refused to say whether the situation in the south was raised during the meeting. Answering a question on the Geneva conference, the Soviet ambassador said: We discussed this question in general.

U.S. AMBASSADOR MEETS SARKIS, MAKES STATEMENT

NC091247Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis today met with U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Richard Parker. After the 1-hour meeting, Ambassador Parker said: I had not seen the president for some time. We discussed current affairs--all issues. As usual we had a general review. I briefed the president on the results of Assistant Secretary of State Atherton's activities in the area. These results are positive.

Answering a question on the situation in the south, Ambassador Parker said: The situation in the south is always difficult, but I have no comment to make today in this connection. The U.S. ambassador denied having discussed with President Sarkis the question of the renewal of the Arab deterrent forces' mandate. Asked whether his visit to the palace today and the visit of the Soviet ambassador to the Foreign Ministry meant an international detente or understanding, he said: It all means that all the diplomats are busy working.

SECURITY FORCES REPORT INCIDENTS IN SCHOOLS

NC081840Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Mar 78 NC

[Text] According to reports from the security forces, following a quarrel which broke out between two groups of students at the Raml az-Zarif Secondary School today, armed men at 1300 opened fire from a car on the school's grounds. A patrol of the Internal Security Forces immediately arrived at the school to restore order and investigate the incident. Two persons attempted to break into the school but were prevented by members of the patrol. One of the two persons then hurled a handgrenade injuring two soldiers, one seriously and the other slightly. Both soldiers were taken to the hospital. A member of the patrol opened fire, fatally wounding the person who threw the handgrenade. His colleague was arrested and another handgrenade was seized from him. The two persons were Nabih al-Kurd and Muhammad al-Bazzaz.

A quarrel broke out between students at the Al-Hadath State School. An Internal Security Forces patrol arrived at the school at the request of its director to restore order. Two students were detained for carrying revolvers and ammunition, which were confiscated by the patrol. The Internal Security Forces also detained four persons suspected of planting a bomb and explosive charges at the Ar-Rawdah High School in Ra's Beirut on 23 February. The four suspects confessed to what they had done. Two handgrenades and some rounds of ammunition were seized from the home of one of them.

ALGERIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION RECEIVED BY KHADDAM

JN091709Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received in his office today the Algerian parliamentary delegation led by Mohamed el Ibrahimi, chairman of the Culture, Education and Information Committee of the Algerian People's Assembly. The meeting was attended by Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council; Dr Muhsin Bilal, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly; and the Algerian charge d'affaires in Damascus. The discussion during the meeting revolved around the developments in the Middle East situation.

The Algerian, Syrian and Palestinian parliamentary delegations held a session this afternoon at the People's Assembly building. The conferees completed the talks that were held during previous sessions. They also reviewed the broadlines of the joint statement which will be released at the end of these talks. These delegations yesterday discussed and approved the working paper that was submitted by the Syrian People's Assembly delegation. Among the main points included in the paper were the basis for joint parliamentary work and the adverse impact of As-Sadat's capitulatory steps. A working program was also drawn up for Arab and international moves.

Received by General

JN092150Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 9 Mar 78 JN

[Text] At 2000 today Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi received Mohamed El Ibrahimi, head of the Algerian parliamentary delegation and chairman of the Culture, Education and Information Committee, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Dr Muhsin Bilal, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly, and the Algerian charge d'affaires in Damascus. The discussion during the meeting revolved around the political situation in the Arab Area and relations between the two fraternal countries.

Received by Al-Ahmar

JN091858Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1758 GMT 9 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus, 9 March--At 1600 today Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, received the Algerian parliamentary delegation led by Mohamed El Ibrahimi, chairman of the Culture, Education and Information Committee of the Algerian People's Assembly. The meeting was attended by Mohamed 'Ayyad, Algerian charge d'affaires in Damascus.

During the meeting the discussion revolved around the efforts being exerted by the two fraternal countries, Algeria and Syria, in the parliamentary, party and popular spheres to consolidate the Arab nation's steadfastness against the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy and to foil the Egyptian regime's capitulatory plan. Stress was also placed on the importance of the meetings among representatives of the two fraternal countries on all levels and the necessity of working to mobilize Arab potentials for defending and continuing with the struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territories and restore the usurped rights of the Palestinian Arab people. The members of the Algerian delegation thanked Comarde al-Ahmar for the hospitality and warm reception accorded them during their stay in Syria and expressed their happiness at the results reached during the talks between the delegations representing the Syrian People's Assembly and the Palestine National Council.

ALGERIA

ASH-SHA'B EDITORIAL ATTACKS AS-SADAT, KING HASSAN

LD092216Y Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Mar 78 p 1 ID

[Editorial: "The Objective Alliance"]

[Text] In a recent interview with the magazine OCTOBER, As-Sadat attacked Algeria for being an active member of the front of steadfastness. The attack was echoed in Rabat, whose king last Friday accused Algeria of conspiring against the "Maghreb character" of the Western Sahara.

There is no doubt that any careful observer would see that the similarity of the Egyptian and the Moroccan regimes and their principles and objectives confirms the conclusion that Morocco and Egypt are tools for implementing the imperialist-colonialist plan that aims at controlling the Arab homeland in both the east and the west.

Perhaps it is necessary here to make a simple comparison between a regime whose leaders, since their childhood, have dedicated themselves to serving the powers that protect the collapsing thrones, and another regime, which has confiscated the gains of the 23 July Revolution and placed the entire Nasirite experiment for sale in an auction market. The first aspect of similarity is that Hassan II and As-Sadat belittle the will of the peoples. The first believed, when he decided to invade the Sahara with the Green March, that in 2 months' time he would be drinking tea in the city of El Aaiun. Likewise, As-Sadat was sure that he would return from Israel with a solution for the Middle East problem, regardless of the will of the Palestinian people, the essence of this problem. But the rulers of Rabat and Cairo have both miscalculated. The Western Sahara has turned into a graveyard of the invaders, and Sinai is still occupied. In the meantime, Palestinian revolutionaries are daily proving in the battlefield that there will be no peace in the area unless it stems from the Arab will.

In order to overcome this dilemma, the Egyptian ruler, who has revived the idols that the 23 July Revolution crushed and has adopted domestic measures that qualify him to succeed King Faruq, is pursuing a defeatist policy. All day long he attacks the front of steadfastness and confrontation because it represents the live Arab conscience that rejects humiliation and degradation. He heaps insults on its leaders because they have isolated him, and consequently Israel takes him lightly. Likewise, Hassan II has taken Algeria as his target because it prevented him from expanding the borders of his kingdom.

Neverthless, both refuse to admit defeat and behave arrogantly and with audacity. In his recent speech the king of Rabat spoke about the second stage in the Western Sahara, the stage of construction. As-Sadat told OCTOBER in its recent issue that he is going on with his "rocketlike" procedural matters for convening the Geneva conference.

Another common element that brings the two men together is that both have committed aggression; As-Sadat committed aggression against the Palestinian people when he sold Palestine in order to restore Sinai.

So did Hassan II when he attacked the Saharan people in order to achieve his expansionist dream. Both are facing a deteriorating domestic situation. Bankruptcy bedevils the Egyptian economy and is reflected in the deteriorating living standard of the Egyptian people. This came to a head during the January demonstrations last year and was evident in the refusal of the major Western companies to invest in Egypt. In Morocco the brotherly people are feeling the burden of the Saharan war, which is affecting their daily livelihood, while those opposing the throne's policy are being thrown in jail by the thousands.

Cairo and Rabat are also the common friends of the enemy of the Palestinian people. Before visiting Ismailia, Moshe Dayan went to Tangiers and Rabat where he met with Hassan II, the man who advocates marrying Zionist genius to Arab money. As-Sadat followed the same route by inviting the Zionists to visit Cairo as welcome guests, because "we are cousins."

This similarity of attitudes has placed their champions outside the Arab concensus. And thus both regimes are fumbling in the darkness of their isolation. One of them tried his luck in Larnaca so as to overwhelm those who oppose him and his enemies with his strength but received a blow that forced him to retreat, and the second is contemplating an adventure against our western borders in which he sees the floating straw that would save him from the Saharan rebels.

JOINT ALGERIAN-MOZAMBIQUE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

LD091808Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD

[Text] A joint communique has sanctioned the talks between Mr Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Revolutionary Council and minister of foreign affairs, and Mozambique Foreign Minister Chissano, who left Algiers yesterday at the end of an official visit to Algeria. In its preamble the joint communique recalls that Mr Chissano was received by President Boumediene and had talks with a number of Algerian ministers.

The minister also visited industrial, agricultural, cultural and scientific achievements in Algeria. The Algerian and Mozambique ministers examined their bilateral relations and problems of common interest, and they agreed to strengthen the cooperation of the two countries in the economic, technical, social and cultural fields, and concrete decisions were taken to this end. The situation which prevails in the African Continent was particularly examined by the two delegations, which consider that the current imperialist maneuvers in Africa are aimed at turning decolonization away from its normal path and at undermining the stability of the countries which are engaged in the consolidation of their national independence.

The two sides, which particularly examined the development of the situation in southern Africa, denounce the so-called internal agreement, which is only aimed at legalizing the illegal regime of Ian Smith. In this context the two sides renew their full support for the decisions of the Libreville summit and the Tripoli council of ministers, recognizing the Patriotic Front as the sole representative of the people of Zimbabwe. In the same way the two sides confirm their entire solidarity with the fight of the people of Namibia under the leadership of the South-West African People's Organization and denounce the provocations of the regimes of Pretoria and Salisbury against the frontline states.

The two sides also stated that they are seriously concerned with the situation prevailing in the territory of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, where people are fighting heroically against the aggression and armed occupation of Morocco and Mauritania, and for the achievement of their fundamental national rights. They particularly denounce the genocidal policy of these two countries and make an urgent appeal to the international community to condemn this war of extermination and strengthen their assistance to, and solidarity with, the Saharan people.

They also condemned the direct French intervention on the side of the Moroccan-Mauritanian invasion forces. The two sides renewed their full solidarity with, and support for, the people of the Western Sahara under POLISARIO. The two sides regard this intervention as a hinderance to the liberation of an African country, and it is contrary to the efforts being exerted by the OAU to reach a just and lasting solution for the Saharan issue, in accordance with the UN and OAU charters.

Regarding the Horn of Africa, both sides expressed concern over the situation in the region, stressing the pressing need for a (?fair) political settlement for this problem within the framework of the OAU.

Regarding the Middle East issue, the two sides expressed satisfaction with the results of the Tripoli and Algiers conferences of the countries of the front of steadfastness and opposition. They stressed that no just and lasting settlement can be found for the Middle East crisis without the full recognition of the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the restoration of the occupied Arab territories. This problem cannot be settled without the PLO's equal participation in all negotiations, since it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The two sides undertook to pursue their efforts within the international organizations with a view to assuring the dismantling of the imperialist bases in the Indian Ocean, its denuclearization and the establishment of a zone of peace in conformity with the aspirations of the peoples of this region.

Finally the two sides confirmed their attachment to the policy of nonalinement.

LIBYA

LAMBERZ BODY LEAVES TRIPOLI; CEREMONIES HELD

LD071926Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] A Libyan aircraft left Tripoli this evening carrying the body of Werner Lamberz, who died yesterday in a helicopter accident. There was an official sendoff at the airport. Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir was there.

Officials Attend Funeral

LD071924Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] Foreign Secretary 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki and Industry and Minerals Secretary Jadallah 'Azzuz at-Talhi left this evening for Berlin at the head of a Libyan delegation to offer condolences on the death of Werner Lamberz. They will also attend the official funeral.

Jallud Oration

LD081530Y Tripoli JANA in English 1405 GMT 8 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 8th, JANA--Speaking on the occasion of the tragic death of the secretary of the Central Committee of the German Socialist Unity Party, Werner Lamberz, and his accompanying delegation, and the death of the Jamahiriyah secretary of liaison and the head of protocol at the Foreign Secretariat, and the airline crew, all of whom perished when their aircraft crashed, S/Major Jallud said that those who have died are martyrs in the cause of improving international relations.

S/Major Jallud began reciting verses from the holy Koran which stressed that man is but a transitory voyager on earth. He then spoke about the German secretary general, whose loss will be felt not only in Germany but here in the Jamahiriyah as well. "We felt as if we have always known our brother Lamberz. We shall miss a great revolutionary--a Jamahiriyah revolutionary." Referring to the bereaved Libyan families he said: "Before we present our condolences to them we have to console ourselves and the whole people of the Jamahiriyah on the loss of great, devoted and active members of the Jamahiriyah."

At the end of his oration, S/Major Jallud reassured that there is no greater honor than to die for one's country as a martyr on a mission for the people.

Commemorative Meeting Held

LD081534Y Tripoli JANA in English 1417 GMT 8 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 8, JANA--At a commemorative celebration held at the people's palace yesterday in honor of the Jamahiriya officials and East German delegates who died in an air-crash here on 6 March, condolences were offered to Brigadier [rank as received] Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, general commander of the Armed Forces, Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, Lt Col Mustafa al-Kharrubi, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, the chairman of the General People's committee, and the bereaved families.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN RECEIVES MAURITANIAN DEFENSE MINISTER

LD072329Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] King Hassan this evening recieved a Mauritanian delegation consisting of the defense minister, the secretary general of the Presidency and the commander in chief of the Mauritanian Armed Forces.

OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR U.S. WITH MESSAGE FOR CARTER

LD091358Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Mohamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, left Sale [Rabat] airport this morning for Washington with a personal message for His Majesty King Hassan II for U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI GRANTS INTERVIEW TO AS-SAYYAD MAGAZINE

LD091610Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] Leader-President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has given an interview to the Beirut magazine AS-SAYYAD, in which he called for a speedup in the reconstruction of the Lebanese Army so that it might properly discharge its duties. He said that Sudan is prepared to provide training for 500 Lebanese soldiers.

The leader-president also declared that he has received a positive response from Mogadiscio concerning his offer to mediate between Somalia and Ethiopia to stop the fighting between them. The leader-president added that on the other hand [words indistinct] negotiations between Ethiopia and the revolutionaries of Eritrea with the aim of reaching a solution that would satisfy the two sides. His excellency added that he previously told Ethiopia of his support for the Eritreans' demand for self-determination. The leader-president said that he does not want to interfere in Ethiopia's internal affairs but he [words indistinct] under Soviet influence. The leader-president said that he has informed the Ethiopians in Khartoum that Sudan stands against foreign interference in Africa.

Leader-President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri stressed that the normalization of relations between Sudan and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah would never and in no way be at the expense of Sudan's relations with the Arab Republic of Egypt. His excellency (?added) that he has notified the Arab Republic of Egypt of his efforts to normalize relations between Sudan and the Jamahiriyah and that the Arab Republic of Egypt has given its blessing to these efforts.

The leader-president expressed his hope that the harmony between Sudan and the Jamahiriyah will lead to the establishment of conditions conducive to an improvement in the relations between Cairo and Tripoli. His excellency stressed that he has made good headway in this direction and that, following the settlement of the differences between Sudan and the Jamahiriyah, he will strive to settle the conflict between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Jamahiriyah, on the one hand, and between Syria and the Arab Republic of Egypt on the other. Leader-President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, in his interview to AS-SAYYAD magazine, published this week, (?welcomed) the settlement of problems between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and Chad and the two countries' agreement to (?restore) diplomatic (?relations). He said that the Libyans have been convinced of the necessity of (?stopping) [words indistinct] (?in) Chad because this (?conflict) could lead to the intervention of the Soviets, and behind them the Cubans [words indistinct]. In his interview the leader-president (?accused) the USSR of harboring ambitious designs on Red Sea ports. He expressed the belief that Ethiopia, through the assistance of the Soviets and Cubans, will be able to recover the Ogaden Desert.

In reply to a question as to whether the Jamahiriyah has begun to (?feel) Soviet influence, the leader-president pointed out the likelihood of this occurring and that he himself has (?discovered) the [word indistinct] of the Soviet presence in the Sudan. His excellency added that [words indistinct] and that he feels it is his duty to warn the Jamahiriyah and to (?help it) [words indistinct].

NUMAYRI APPOINTS SSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NC1010500Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1036 GMT 10 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Khartoum, 10 March--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has issued a decision appointing 31 members to the Central Committee of the Sudanese Socialist Union, including some persons who returned to Sudan after being pardoned. The decision appoints 13 ministers from the southern region and seven senior officers of the armed forces and prisons as members of the Central Committee.

TUNISIA

L'ACTION: OPPONENTS AIM ONLY AT SEIZING POWER

LD0909510Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 1 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Moncef Chihi article: "Massive, Spontaneous Support"]

[Text] Certain individuals have tried to draw their own kind of conclusions from the insurrectional riots of 26 January in accordance with the aims they pursue, and have tried, and still are trying, to question the country's economic and social policy.

But it was precisely the "price of success" that Tunisia paid on that day. And it is precisely that model of achievement that the system's detractors and opportunists on all sides are attacking. Since 1970 they have been a little more disappointed each year as they witnessed, without really believing it, the success of an economic performance led with vigor and success [sentence as published]. Since 1972 their impatience, at first timid and unobtrusive, has grown into outwardly expressed irritation. And since 1974 they have been more "confident," since they calculated that the government had little chance of averting "bankruptcy" in the whirlwind of the international crisis shaking even the world's most robust economies. However, they had to face disappointment also in this case. Their hopes of gaining power based on morbid opportunism gradually disappeared. And Tunisia's steady achievements in the economic sphere finally overcame the reservations which they had hitherto tried to maintain.

Strange alliances unencumbered with discretion began to be concocted. The tone of certain newspapers became more aggressive as a result. All those whose only common denominator was their hatred of the system formed an alliance to overthrow it and seize power.

They intended to start implementing their plan on 26 January; in fact, they hopelessly failed. On that day the overwhelming majority of citizens refused to become puppets controlled by adventurers. They massively and spontaneously demonstrated their wisdom by reacting in this way, showing that they supported a policy which, day after day for the past 8 years, has increasingly been putting their desire for progress and social justice into a concrete form. They are aware that this policy has been planned and pursued with a view to definitely freeing them from moral and material constraints and making them really free men. Because of their political nearsightedness and opportunism, certain people claimed that the democratic path should assume a different form and lead in a different direction, a direction which in fact would be for them a shortcut to power.

CHRISTIAN DELEGATION MAKES GRIM REPORT ON S. LEBANON

TA090818Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 9 Mar 78 TA

[Text] A delegation from the villages of the Christian enclave in southern Lebanon has spent the last few days in Israel. The delegation complained to Israeli elements of the critical situation prevailing in the enclave villages as a result of the capture of the village of Marun ar-Ra's. This is reported by our correspondent Yo'el Dar. According to the members of the delegation, the capture of the village has created distress and fear among the inhabitants of the villages near the border with Israel. They said that the terrorist organization, As-Sa'iqah, which is acting under Syrian patronage, has warned the Shi'ite villagers in the area in leaflets not to accept aid from Israel. The leaflets add that, in any case, Israel cannot be relied on, since its hands are tied because of the political situation.

LEBANESE MAJOR EXPRESSES 'DISAPPOINTMENT' IN ISRAEL

TA100728Y Jerusalem POST in English 10 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Metulla--In an interview with local journalists and foreign TV crews near here yesterday, the commander of the southern Lebanese forces expressed his disappointment with the lack of Israeli intervention in the As-Sa'iqah attack on the village of Marun ar-Ra's last week.

Maj Sa'id Haddad said he believed that Syrians and their As-Sa'iqah Palestinian forces had long since crossed the "red line" in Lebanon beyond which Israel had said it would not tolerate foreign troop movement. Haddad said the forces were in fact within one kilometre of the Israeli border.

The Lebanese commander said that in this connection he and the people of the enclaves had been certain of Israeli intervention when Marun ar-Ra's was attacked. "The question now is whether or not Israel really will come to the aid of the Christian villages when the Syrians attack again," he said.

Although Haddad expressed gloom, he stressed that in spite of everything the people of the south were determined to resist anyone who tries to overrun their villages.

Many Lebanese did not show up for their jobs in Israel yesterday, and Haddad said this was because they were manning defensive positions in their villages.

PERES HOPEFUL ABOUT JORDAN JOINING TALKS

TA100607Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres says he thinks Jordan might join the Middle East peace negotiations. Speaking at a news conference in Brussels, Peres said he believes King Husayn was waiting to determine how much As-Sadat could extract from Israel before joining the talks. Peres said Husayn's expressions of pessimism should not be taken as his final judgement.

Earlier, Peres held talks with Belgian Premier Leo Tindemans and senior government officials, on the Middle East situation.

MINISTERS ASKED TO STAY HOME DURING WASHINGTON TALKS

TA101046Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Mar 78 p 2 TA

[By Arye Zimmuqi]

[Text] Ministers who were going to leave the country next week on behalf of their ministries, the UJA or the bonds, were asked to put off their trips for a later date.

The ministers were told that since the prime minister is being accompanied on his visit to Washington by Ministers Dayan and Weizman and other ministers are already abroad, it is desirable that they remain in Israel. They were also told that it is probable that it will be necessary to hold a cabinet meeting to take some decisions.

It is possible that Minister Sharon, whose trip to Germany, France and Belgium must receive government approval in its meeting on Sunday, will also be requested to postpone his departure from Israel.

BEGIN ANSWERS RESERVISTS' PROTEST LETTER

TA081334Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Begin has answered the letter of the 300 officers and soldiers which reached him yesterday. In his reply Mr Begin says that the government has made and is continuing to make supreme efforts to prevent war and bring about peace. It is the right of the authors to stand by their view; however, the prime minister asks--do they think that from the point of view of democratic rules it is possible to impose this view on the nation's representatives who have been chosen to conduct its affairs?

Mr Begin asks the officers and soldiers to answer him personally by letter whether they accept the demands of Egypt, Jordan and the rest of the Arab countries to the effect that a prior commitment should be made to totally withdraw to the 1967 borders and to grant self-determination to the residents of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. The acceptance of these proposals, Mr Begin says, would lead to continuous bloodshed and would endanger the existence of the state. The prime minister expresses the hope that the authors of the letter will reject these demands and asks them to allow the chosen government to conduct the peace negotiations according to its understanding. The task is not easy, it is said in the letter, and good citizens had better not make it difficult but make every possible effort to strengthen the government that wholeheartedly wants peace.

Our correspondent Zevi Lidar reports that the representatives of the officers and soldiers were summoned to the prime minister's office in Jerusalem less than an hour ago and that there they were given the letter of reply.

Reservists Answer Begin Reply

TA091447Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Mar 78 p 3 TA

[By Avner Tavori]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Begin answered the "officers' letter" yesterday. In the wake of the receipt of the prime minister's reply, the authors of the letter yesterday held a press conference in which they answered the prime minister's remarks.

"The prime minister--they say--states that there are only two possibilities: the government's plan or a withdrawal to the June 1967 borders. In our opinion, however, the negotiations did not get stuck because of this. They prematurely ran aground because of the greater Eretz Yisra'el concept and the settlements in the Sinai. We propose neither a withdrawal to the 1967 borders nor the plan of the greater Eretz Yisra'el. We believe that there are middle paths and this is what the letter is talking about."

Yesterday the initiators of the letter erected a booth on the campus [presumably at Hebrew University] and, according to them about 500 people have signed in support of "the officers' letter."

In the wake of reports published in the press, the authors of the letter were approached by people who are prepared to collect signatures of support throughout the country and are also ready to put their vehicles or apartments at the disposal of the activists.

GROUP OF MINISTERS REPORTED MOVING TO OUST SHARON

TA091332Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Mar 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[Excerpt] A group of ministers, including Finance Minister Ehrlich, Defense Minister Weizman, some of the DMC ministers and some of the [Likud] liberal ministers, is aiming at driving Agriculture Minister Sharon out of the government. In their opinion, his conduct and activity, especially in the settlement sphere, are damaging Israel.

The group believes Sharon's removal would be possible if his latitude were limited and his status reduced. After the prime minister's return from Washington, the ministers will move toward transferring the responsibility for and treatment of all land in the state of Israel, except agricultural land, from the Agriculture Ministry to the Housing and Construction Ministry.

It has been learned that Prime Minister Begin was told that the scarcity and high prices of apartments in the center of the country necessitate expanding construction in the coastal region. For this reason, control over land designated for building should be transferred to the Housing and Construction Ministry.

If Sharon accepts this decision and does not retire from his post, the group of ministers will seek to depose him from his post as chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs and have him replaced by another minister. Some of the group are of the opinion that in such a case Sharon will have no choice but to resign from the government.

It is not clear what the prime minister's position will be on this matter. The position of Foreign Minister Dayan, who supports a considerable number of Sharon's actions, is particularly unclear.

MK Zalman Shoval said yesterday that he thinks the Likud will not be swept by head-chopping now and he therefore hopes the report [regarding Sharon] is unfounded. The real question is to what extent different ministers allow themselves to speak and act against the approved position of the government, MK Shoval said.

BEGIN SEEKS CLARIFICATION ON EHRLICH 'RESIGNATION'

TA091224Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 9 Mar 78 p 2 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Begin clarified with Finance Minister Ehrlich the day before yesterday the remarks the latter made regarding his possible resignation.

The day before yesterday, after Defense Minister Weizman's threat to resign, the radio broadcast a report, attributed to knowledgeable circles in the Finance Ministry, which said that if Weizman resigned he would not be the only minister to take such a step.

When the prime minister learned this, he called the finance minister and asked for a clarification. Ehrlich replied that he had said privately that he might resign in view of the criticism leveled at him for his economic policy. Begin responded by saying that the publication of this in connection with Weizman's threat to resign had assumed a special significance, and Ehrlich agreed. Following this development, the Finance Ministry issued a statement denying the remarks broadcast earlier that the finance minister might resign.

The HA'AREZ correspondent says, nonetheless, that, despite the finance minister's explanations about the circumstances in which he had made the remarks regarding his possible resignation, it should be remembered that recent cabinet meetings have revealed identity of views between him and the defense minister.

BEGIN TO DISCUSS SHARON-WEIZMAN DISCORD WITH PRINCIPALS

TA091449Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Arye Zimmuqi]

[Text] Prime Minister Begin will hold meet with Ministers Weizman and Sharon immediately upon his return from the United States in order to determine the appropriate arrangements to prevent friction between the two on the question of establishing settlements.

An opinion has been expressed that the prime minister will head a joint committee for agriculture and defense that will decide on settlement matters.

HA'AREZ COMMENTS ON WEIZMAN-BEGIN RELATIONS

TA091635Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 9 Mar 78 p 9 TA

[Avraham Schweizer commentary]

[Text] 'Ezer Weizman has begun to cash in on the increased market value of his shares on the political stock exchange--an increase that has been taking place over the last 2 months. In a vehement telephone call from New York in which Weizman, with the help of his favorite Briticisms, "flew the flag at full mast," he achieved the practical halt of settlements, although it is not yet clear whether this is for as long as he stays in the United States or for as long as the negotiations with the Arabs last. This is rather a good achievement in itself but it is also accompanied by a bonus: murmurs about the possibility that other ministers would have also resigned had Weizman done so.

The Americans, who are sensitive to such a show of strength, will take note of the fact that there is a new strong man in Israeli policy--a man who dares and succeeds. They may, while doing this, also cross from the list the deputy prime minister: the deputy prime minister who found it correct to say in view of Weizman's act--an action that everyone expected Deputy Prime Minister Professor Yadin to make--that everything carried out in the field was carried out according to the defense minister's instructions. Saying this at this time indicates a great deal of naivete and a lack of understanding, and even confirmed admirers of the professor will from now on have difficulty categorizing him within the national league of politicians.

However, those concerned with Weizman's welfare have surely warned him not to become intoxicated by success and particularly not to drop his vigilance since the prime minister will not easily forget that on two occasions, one after the other, Weizman dictated his moves: in Qadesh Barne'a and in An-Nabi Salih. It is not at all important whether the prime minister agreed with the defense minister--only a mind reader can answer this question. The important thing is that it was Weizman who decided and Begin who acted, and this is not exactly a flattering image for a person who has not only been the man of authority but has also been particular about appearing so in public.

Mr Begin would not have forgotten this even if he liked Weizman. Leaders usually do not like the person designated by the public to succeed them, all the more so when the heir is suspected of heresy regarding major issues and the infallible wisdom of the leader. Therefore, it is no exaggeration to say that Weizman's steps are the opening of a power struggle in the Likud as well as in the country.

From this point of view the remarks ascribed to Mr Ehrlich about his identification with Weizman are important, despite his quick denial, since, although Herut is the major force in the Likud it is the liberals who determine which Herut member will head the government.

'Ezer Weizman was scalded once before when he led an uprising against Begin within the Herut Movement. The circumstances then were different, however, Begin was young while Weizman was more childish. Time has acted on both and strong supporters have been added to Weizman outside Israel as well, such as As-Sadat and Jimmy Carter. It would be a mistake to bet all one's cards on Weizman: On the one hand, Begin is an expedient politician enjoying a unique status among the people and his party, and on the other, many still doubt Weizman's maturity and reasoning.

DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN GRANTS INTERVIEW FOR TELEVISION

TA092057Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Mar 78 TA

[Interview with Minister Weizman by Eli Nissan in Washington, time not specified--videotaped]

[Text] [Question] Following your talks at the Pentagon has there been any change in the U.S. attitude regarding supplies of military equipment to Israel?

[Answer] No, not yet. We would certainly like more and faster but, I'd only like to remind you that there is already approval for a certain number of both F-16's and F-15's--excellent aircraft. Our air force commander, Major General 'Ivri, flew the aircraft on Friday, and is very satisfied with it. The subject of the F-16 has definitely been broached, as well as other subjects pertaining to the ground and sea forces. As I said earlier, I think it would be better at this stage of the talks and the discussions and, especially on the eve of the prime minister's arrival, for me to wait and say the things that I can say--I certainly won't say the things that I'm unable to say. Hence I prefer that we still wait regarding this subject.

[Question] Without referring to details, only to the principal aspect of it, could you say what degree of response you have encountered in your talks now, in comparison with the written commitments on the part of the U.S. Government?

[Answer] Yes, I could do that. There is, naturally, a debate on what the written commitments are. They have their interpretation, and we have ours. I think we should remember that the response so far has been very great and extensive. We received considerable aid from the United States over the last 4 years, following an agreement and also in the wake of the fact that we had also undertaken a certain agreement with the Egyptians. I don't think that the subject will be an easy one, although I don't deem it to be impossible. We are in the midst of a very profound and keen discussion with them. We've expanded the discussion not only to the subject of Matmon Gimal [Treasure C--not further identified] but also to the aspects of peace, to possibilities of settlements, to the comprehensive problem of what security is; and here I emphasized several times, as did my colleagues, the Saudi problem, the F-15's to Saudi Arabia; how we regard it with grave concern; that first we were introduced into a package deal, second, that it is equal to a threat. We also stressed the importance of certain places in Sinai, even in the event of a peace settlement. I certainly also emphasized and continued to emphasize the entire issue of Judaea and Samaria, the importance of Judaea and Samaria, our presence, in Judaea and Samaria and our settlements in Judaea and Samaria. The debates that have been going on so far can perhaps be called technical debates, but they are definitely not debates on or varying views of principle. There is a formidable interest here--beyond anything I expected--in all the issues included under the heading of rural settlements. We stressed, and shall continue to emphasize to them the fact of our staying and of our presence in Judaea and Samaria.

[Question] Did you also discuss, specifically, the security aspect of the settlements?

[Answer] Certainly. We had better not take up specifically the "yes or no" question of settlements. But there is, however, a tendency in modern life to come and say that if you are in possession of modern equipment, area is less important. This is a mistake. It's a mistake. Sometimes, of couse, you can attribute more importance to one item and less importance to another. I repeat and say, and I'm saying it now, to my regret I am here and a grave debate is unrolling in Israel, a debate I had no idea would erupt in such strength and at such a time, while I am here. I dislike very much the fact that I am in the United States and the debate is in Israel. The subject of Judaea and Samaria and the subject of our presence there, the subject of the military importance was raised, and will be raised with the president. I can only hope that the talks we are conducting today will help and assist us in the important and profound talks we shall conduct next week with the foreign minister and with the prime minister. [end videotape]

DAYAN EXPLAINS PROBLEMS ON SETTLEMENT ISSUE

TA091300Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Mar 78 p 4 TA

[By Yehoshu'a Bizur]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Dayan told the Knesset yesterday that the decision to adopt the method of settlement only in military camps was taken after talks on the subject with representatives of the U.S. Government and of the settlers and with the consent of the agriculture and defense ministers.

Foreign Minister Dayan was replying to a question by (Alinement) MK Aharon Yadlin who wanted to know the difference between a settlement within a military camp and a settlement outside one.

Dayan told (Likud) MK Pessah Grupper that the Israeli Government in high-level talks in Jerusalem and Bonn, told the German Government of Israel's concern about the slowness of the procedures of the Maidanek trial.

Deputy Minister Yoram Aridor replied in the prime minister's name to (Alinement) MK Shoshanna Arbeli-Almozlino yesterday, saying that during the Yom Kippur war Saudi forces were in Syria. They consisted of an infantry brigade, a battalion of tanks, a battalion of armored cars, a batallion of paratroopers and artillery and antiaircraft units.

Saudi forces also took part in the war of attirition on the Golan Heights following the Yom Kippur war.

STRIKES AFFECT COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORTATION SECTORS

NC100917Y Paris AFP in English 0910 GMT 10 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Tel Aviv, March 10 (AFP)--Israel was today in the thick of a series of strikes on the issue of purchasing power, affecting the sectors of communications and transportation.

Radio and television journalists stopped work halting news coverage and port employees have staged strikes, as have staff of the El Al Airline and Ben-Gurion Airport.

Others engaged in stoppages include postal and telecommunications workers and employees of urban transport co-operatives.

The cost of living has risen more than 50 percen in one year.

WEST BANK ARAB IEADERS RECEIVE THREATS

TA080717Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Several Arab dignitaries in the West Bank have received threatening letters in the past few days, warning them not to cooperate with the Israeli authorities. The letters were signed The Black Hand, but on the back of the envelopes the return address identified as the World Health Organization. On 6 March the head of the public health services in the West Bank, Dr Husayn ('Ubayd), resigned, but denied he had been threatened. He had, however, been accused by the PLO of serving Israeli interests. Two prominent West Bank Arabs have been murdered in the past few months, after being accused of collaborating with the Israelis.

AL-QUDS: ARAB COUNTRIES DENY ENTRY TO PALESTINIANS

TA091319Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Mar 78 p 4 TA

[By Tawfiq Khuri]

[Text] According to the East Jerusalem newspaper AL-QUDS, the Egyptian authorities this week turned back dozens of residents from Judaea and Samaria asking for entry.

West Bankers arriving at Cairo Airport this week were held by the security forces for over 3 hours and then turned back.

The paper, basing its report on knowledgeable Arab sources, also reported that Kuwaiti authorities had stopped giving Palestinians entry permits. The Kuwaiti Embassy in Amman, where most Palestinians ask for entry permits is no longer complying with requests.

It has also been learned that the Abu Dhabi authorities have stopped issuing entry permits for Palestinians for the time being.

It should be noted that the Arab press in East Jerusalem highlights the reports regarding restrictions recently imposed on Palestinians by Arab countries, particularly Egypt. All the Arab papers claim that even if Palestinians were involved in the murder of Egyptian writer Yusuf as-Siba'i, this is no justification for penalizing all Palestinians.

CONFLICTING REPORTS ON ISRAELI-MEXICAN OIL AGREEMENT

TA100844Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 10 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The Mexican national oil company has denied reports that it has signed a new agreement on supplies of oil to Israel. The PEMEX Company spokesman said that the agreement signed with Israel 2 years ago, according to which Mexico sells Israel 30,000 barrels of oil daily, is still valid.

In spite of the denial, the paper EL NACIONAL, the organ of the Mexican Government, this morning quoted the announcement by Minister of Energy Yizhaq Moda'i that Israel will buy millions of barrels of oil a year from Mexico. Minister Moda'i added that Mexico had guaranteed to supply Israel with any amount of oil it requested and, in this context, would also fulfil short-term orders. The paper says that Israel is an important client of Mexico and the two countries are now examining ways to transport the oil.

AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY EXPECTED TO BENEFIT FROM TAIWAN DEAL

TA091312Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Mar 78 p 3 TA

[By Yehoshu'a Kahana]

[Text] Some of the funds received from the sale of 50 Kfirs to Taiwan--if indeed this deal is carried out--will be requested by the aircraft industry for investment in the development of the Arye, an aircraft now in the planning stage.

This was confirmed yesterday by the heads of the aircraft industry after publication of the report regarding Taiwan's desire to procure Kfirs from Israel. The spokesmen stressed that in return for 50 Kfirs the country will get $500 million, while the aircraft industry needs $440 million for the development of the Arye.

The aircraft industry heads remarked yesterday with satisfaction that if the sale of the 50 Kfirs materialized, it would be the biggest single deal in the history of the State of Israel and a new era would be opened for the aircraft industry.

It was reported by the aircraft industry that the Kfir production lines can supply planes both for the Israeli Air Force and for foreign clients.

In addition to the Taiwan government, Austrian Air Force heads have not given up their intention to purchase Kfirs from Israel. The negotiations with them have been frozen, but not cancelled.

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE TO SELL GOVERNMENT COMPANIES

TA091501Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 9 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By El'azar Levin]

[Text] The Ministerial Committee for Economic Affairs decided in its meeting on Sunday to sell several dozen government-owned companies. The decision was not formally publicized in the official version of the report on its discussions as released by the Government Press Office.

The list of companies that will be put up for sale within 2 to 3 years is included in a secret supplement to the decisions of the ministerial committee. It has been decided not to publicize the list in order not to harm the orderly conduct of the business of the companies. However, I have learned that the list includes the three government banks, which will be put up for sale within the coming year: Bank Tefahot, Bank Lemelakha and the Maritime Bank of Israel. Bank Lemelakha will apparently be sold to the First International Bank for about 100 million Israeli pounds.

The Ministerial Committee for Economic Affairs has also determined that every company sale will be submitted for its approval and the approval of the Knesset Finance Committee prior to the signing of the contract. The revenues from the sale of the companies for the fiscal year 1978/1979 are estimated at about 1 billion Israeli pounds.

BEGIN FAILS TO GET CHAVET ON PRESIDENTIAL TICKET

TA100746Y Jerusalem POST in English 10 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] Premier Menahem Begin yesterday failed to persuade the coalition to accept his dark-horse candidate for president, Prof Yizhaq Chavet.

Although Begin wanted to settle the question of the candidacy before leaving for Washington early next week, the lack of initial enthusiasm on the part of his coalition partners for the unknown Cairo-born nuclear physicist upset his plans.

When Begin heard representatives of the liberal wing of the Likud, as well as representatives from the National Religious Party and Democratic Movement for Change, mention other favored candidates, albeit informally, he realized an on-the-spot decision was out of the question. He thereby asked the coalition parties to refrain from all decisions on their candidates, and from all contact between each other, until he returned from the U.S.

Begin said that on his return he would meet with the coalition parties to present Chavet's candidacy and explain why he favoured the physicist. The coalition partners indicated their parties would consider going along with his request.

IDF CANNOT APPLY ALL AGRANAT RECOMMENDATIONS

TA091507Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Mar 78 p 4 TA

[By Yehoshu'a Bizur]

[Text] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee heard from a senior general headquarters officer yesterday that the IDF is of the opinion that it is impossible to apply dozens of recommendations included in the Agranat Committee report.

It became clear from the senior officer's remarks that the Agranat Committee report consists of 230 recommendations pertaining to the IDF. About 150 recommendations have been applied. Several dozen proposals are undergoing experimentation. Regarding 25 of the recommendations the IDF believes there is no room for their application since they are contrary to the concept of the army.

SHAH INTERVIEWED ON MIDEAST, AFRICAN, INTERNAL ISSUES

LD0812345Y London BBC Domestic Television in English 1930 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Richard Kershaw interview with shah of Iran in Teheran carried on "Newsday" program--recorded]

[Text] [Kershaw] Last week I spoke to the shah in his palace in Teheran, and I asked him whether he agreed that the Middle East was poised at a critical point and that the outcome, I asked him, of the deep division between the radical Arab states and those prepared to stay linked with the West depended very much on what happened in the present Middle East peace negotiations.

[Shah] I think that you are quite correct, Mr Kershaw. And a lot depends on the Israeli comprehension of this question that relates to the two worlds, but also relates to the future and destiny of Israel itself. We hope that this is quite clear to them that an opportunity like this eventually could not offer itself in the future.

[Question] Is there a danger--or do you see a danger--of a further radicalization even in countries like Saudi Arabia if this opportunity is lost?

[Answer] Very probably.

[Question] You share many interests with other states in what I have been brought up to call the Persian Gulf. But do you have any firm understandings on common action or defense with the states who think as you do?

[Answer] No, we have not. We proposed a thing like this years ago but never really insisted on it because we have nothing special in mind. It is not a gimmick or a trick to dominate others. So we make our proposal, if they like it they should come forward...

[Question] For common action?

[Answer] For common action. But maybe on a bilateral basis--at least we have it with Oman. And our arms are open for all those who would like to come and shake our hands and establish either a bilateral understanding and that should go as far as they want to. [as received]

[Question] But if there were further radicalization in the Arab world, if, shall we say, in the gulf a leftwing regime appeared, would you be prepared to intervene?

[Answer] If we are asked by the legal authorities, yes, certainly, this is our duty.

[Question] How do you regard what is happening in the Horn between Somalia and Ethiopia? There is a serious conflict there. Are you worried about it?

[Answer] How can I not be worried, especially when one looks at the future consequences of the unchecked Cuban intervention. On the other hand, we have said that we respect the international frontiers, the borders of the African states. And on the other hand, we have said that if Ethiopia crosses the international or recognized borders of Somalia, we could not remain i different.

[Question] Does not remaining indifferent mean that again you would be prepared to intervene, if asked?

[Answer] Well, I cannot say that now, today, but by not remaining indifferent you have got to understand why. Because if the same organizations, the same set-up controls Berbera, Socotra, Aden, our line of communication might be threatened. Because if all adopt a policy and attitude like Aden toward my country, so we know what we are going to expect.

[Question] Are you worried about the way the West--and here obviously primarily the U.S. but also Britain, which has the power in the area for a long time--about the way they are reacting?

[Answer] Well, it is just a little better. But we can in this case understand a little the attitude of the West and particularly the British in view of your special relations with Kenya. But the West also says the same thing that I say. If we start not to recognize the official borders of African states, there would probably be no two states who would have no differences.

[Question] There is, though, the whole question of your relations and your ultimate guarantees from the U.S. because you have a long border yourself with Russia. Are you in any degree worried that the U.S. would not honor any commitments it has to you to help you?

[Answer] Well, I can only remember the words spoken by President Carter, both during my visits to Washington and during his stay here. He spoke about the unshakable military alliance between the two countries.

[Question] But the treaties in which the West has allied itself regionally in SEATO, which is now dead...Do you still feel that you have the sort of guarantees to give you the security you need?

[Answer] We have no guarantees at all, because America is only an observer in the CENTO.

[Question] We are a partner.

[Answer] You are a partner. But we have no guarantee at all. The question is that the West will certainly die before you have found other sources of energy. If your access to the energy of this part of the world, for the next 25 years or 30 years is denied to you, you will just die.

[Question] Can we return to the economic question of oil. It seems to me that you have reversed your country's position, if I go back to Doha, on oil pricing. Where before you argued for the necessity of continuous rises in prices to keep up with inflation, now you joined Saudi Arabia in arguing for a stable price. Why the change?

[Answer] I think it was not difficult to see that what we were gaining, for instance, by increasing 5 percent or 10 percent on the price of oil, we were losing about 30 to 40 percent in worldwide inflation. In some cases we know that when the prices of oil had increased about say fourfold from a very unjust....

[Question] Low price?

[Answer] Low price, to a real price. But we have been punished by about 500 percent increase in what we had to buy from the industrial countries.

[Question] I follow that argument. What I do not see is why you now argued for a stable price. Is it really because there is a glut of oil, or is it because you saw the damage that was happening in Western economy?

[Answer] Damage in Western economy? Yes. But we think that the Western economy is especially in this position because of your own internal set-ups and stratas and your permissive society, if I can say so.

[Question] About a year ago, talking to an American editor, you said: Your societies are not well run--and you were particularly talking of the European societies. "You have no government, you have no leadership," were your words. You hinted in talking about oil prices that our inflation may come from internal troubles. Can you expand on that remark you made to that American editor?

[Answer] Yes, I could repeat the same thing, because so far we can see when they try to go to an election campaign and to the polls, they are not telling the people what is needed for the country. But they are telling the people what may please them in order to get the votes. So, as long as this situation continues we are going to have the same scenery all over again.

[Question] Are you worried about the development you see in Europe, in Italy and France?

[Answer] Terribly worried. Terribly worried because we feel a real interdependence between Europe and my country and our region. If Europe goes, we are in a very, very bad shape. If we go, you are dead.

[Question] Hence one of the reasons, perhaps, why you have moderated your own price policy?

[Answer] Yes, that might be one of the reasons. Yes.

[Question] Can I turn to your internal affairs, sir? Iran, as you are well aware, is coming in for criticism for some domestic government practices. President Carter now made this emphasis in his election campaign on human rights and turned a particular spotlight on those countries receiving U.S. aid. Is this one reason that you have made certain changes in some of the ways that you deal with political offenses in this country?

[Answer] Well, not really because we started these things about 2 years ago. And 2 years ago was long before the American election results were known. But, as I had the occasion of saying it a few days ago here to the convention of the women of Iran, after what we have achieved in our revolution, I think that our society is strong enough to withstand and to support all these exaggerations, which we can see in a free society everywhere. Look at the European societies or the U.S. societies. You can see crime, you can see libel, you can see all sorts of terrible things that, if you think about it, you could not accept. But this has become part of existence. So we are going to continue with the policy of absolute liberalization up to the limit of treason and betrayal of the country.

[Question] You have released a lot of what are called political prisoners. How many do you still hold?

[Answer] We have something around 2,000, maybe a little more. But a little more is a question of dozens. But you call them political prisoners--okay. If you want to say that, continue to say it. But mostly they are terrorists and murderers. We do not consider that as being political, this is just being against the country.

[Question] Well, you saw the head of Amnesty [International], last year and also other international figures. Was this a gesture to show that you felt you had nothing to hide?

[Answer] Yes. I think so. We also received the president of International Jurists, he is an American. And we opened the door of all of our prisons and cells to the International Red Cross, who have been here many times.

[Question] They raised with you the question of torture of people held? Does that now not take place? Have you given orders that it should no longer take place?

[Answer] Oh, for a long time. It is close on 2 years now. When we started our liberalization program, one thing first of all was torture. But you see, the question of torture--for instance all the films that we see about the brutality of the police, for instance, in one Western country or even in Great Britain--you yourselves are sometimes admitting that you have used torture in Ireland and those places--what is torture? That is also something. Some people even go as far as saying that if you go and talk to a prisoner and tell him that if you are sorry about what you have done and if you ask pardon or amnesty, this is a mental torture. Is it? If we do not do it, they say, well, they did not even try to give a break to the prisoners in order to get out. So torture is a big word, but that depends how you interpret it. And anyway it has stopped here.

[Question] Since 2 years?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] What sort of explanation do you give for the troubles that have occurred recently in Qom and in Tabriz? Do you see these partly as a result of what you describe as the liberalization, the total liberalization you have gone for?

[Answer] Well, certainly yes. But this is not going to make us change our mind or change our attitude. This is the very familiar, what we call, the unholy alliance between the black and the red. That is the communists and the very reactionary people or strata. We always see it. Because they are both against progress and the happiness of this country for their own purposes.

[Question] I think it is reasonable to try and separate out the elements; the Islamic element is traditional rather than revolutionary.

[Answer] Oh yes. But both are opposed to any signs of progress. The blacks because of their nature, the reds because it takes every wind out of their sails. What can they offer the people? The only thing they can offer the people after what we have done is to take from them either individual freedoms or individual ownership, because our policy if the maximum participation of people in the ownership of what we have in this country.

[Question] Is there something of a religious revival, of a traditional religious revival going on?

[Answer] This we do not mind. I am very religious myself, very mystical, very religious. And I believe that a society could not really be solid without a firm foundation on religious beliefs. This I do not mind at all. But going from there to aline yourself with the communists in order to assist at the dismemberment of the country, this is different.

[Question] When you speak of the left, those undoubtedly communist elements...but during last year and during the liberalization on say letters of protest and disagreement with government policy from people who by no stretch of imagination were communists. There is also...other elements have been coming out and expressing quite open criticism.

[Answer] We do not mind. We do not mind, they can speak out and say anything they want. It is a free country. We have our political party where we think that everybody could also be a good citizen of this country and still be free to say anything they like within the framework of our revolution and the 19 points of our revolution. But if people want to be outside that, they are still free to be out of that and say anything they want as they have been doing in the last few months or year.

[Question] But power in this respect still rests in you and your executive?

[Answer] Or the executive, yes, because we are always separating the executive from the other branches of the government. It must be.

[Question] Do you ever see a time in which you return to a pluralistic party system, or leastways when the cabinet is directly elected by the people? Nearer to our system?

[Answer] The party, which comprises the whole of the nation, must in itself give the same opportunity to the people to express themselves through the party. Your system is through different parties. Ours is through one party where all the people are represented. The difference is that when we go to the polls, we are not making false promises to the people.

[Question] But ultimately you do see it as a structure involving popular political will?

[Answer] Oh yes, absolutely, absolutely. Because, after all, in 10 years time or even sooner than that all our people will be educated at least alphabets. [as heard] They will know how to read and write and choose their own men. And these men will be in the party or the Parliament.

[Question] How long, Sir, finally, do you think that you have? You are making transitions at a great pace here, but how long do you think that you have before you have to complete this revolution?

[Answer] Well, the revolution is continuing. I told my people we will never stop. Every time, every minute, every second that something will be in the interests of the country, it will be done. So if you are referring to the great civilization period, I think that we can reach the doorstep of that period in another 10-12 years.

BANGLADESH

DPRK VICE PRESIDENT KANG SPEAKS AT DACCA BANQUET

BK091529Y Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 0100 FMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Text] DPRK Vice President Kang Yang-uk has said that his country supports the efforts of the Bangladesh Government to strengthen the unity of the new and emerging forces pursuing a nonalined policy. He was speaking at a dinner held in his honor by Bangladesh Vice President Justice Abdus Sattar in Dacca last night.

The Korean leader said that the current revolutionary struggle is being carried out in a spirit of common struggle against imperialism and for the achievement of independence of the people of new emerging nations

Praising the leadership of President Ziaur Rahman, he said that under his leadership Bangladesh has achieved successes in consolidating national independence, building the national economy and culture and in strengthening the unity of the people.

Kang said that the Korean people sincerely hope that by overcoming their temporary difficulties, the people of Bangldesh will attain greater success in their future struggle to consolidate the country's independence and develop its economy.

Referring to the similar struggle being carried out by the people of Korea, the Korean vice president thanked the government and people of Bangldesh for extending their sympathy and solidarity. He assured them that his country will make efforts to strengthen and develop its friendship and cooperation with Bangldesh in all fields and will provide active support to the just cause of the people of nonalined countries. He said that both Korea and Bangladesh are developing nations in Asia, their goal is also the same and, thus, they are tied by strong bonds of friendship.

Kang said that his current visit to Bangladesh will contribute to promoting more effectively the trust and friendship between the government and the people of the two countries and to inspring the common struggle of the new emerging nations.

Earlier welcoming the guest, Vice President Justice Abdus Sattar said: Bangladesh desires to build its relations with the DPRK on a steady foundation. He said that recently relations between the two countries have made visible progress. The trade between the two countries is also gradually expanding.

The vice president said that the Bangladesh economic and sports teams were accorded a warm welcome during their visit to Korea. He said that a DPRK cultural team is now visiting Bangladesh and its performances are highly appreciated.

Justice Sattar expressed his confidence that Kang's visit will greatly strengthen the friendly ties between the two countries and further expand mutual cooperation between them. He said that the people of Bangladesh and the DPRK have undergone a common historical experience and share high principles in international relations besides being bound together by tradition and culture.

Justice Sattar said that by pooling their efforts the two nations will be able to [words indistinct] common cause. He said that Bangladesh is committed to a program of peace and stability on the South Asian subcontinent in order to carry out its economic development efforts. With this objective in view, the president of Bangladesh had recently visited Nepal, India and Pakistan.

The vice president reiterated Bangladesh's firm belief that the Indian Ocean should be declared a zone of peace and said that as a first step toward this purpose, consultations are necessary among the countries of the Indian Ocean region and the littoral states aimed at guaranteeing peace and security.

Justice Sattar said that Bangladesh feels the need of establishing a new economic order to bridge the gap between the rich and poor countries.

Referring to several tense regions in the world, including the Middle East, he said his country believes that only through the implementation of the UN resolutions and the restoration of the indisputable rights of the Palestinian people to have a separate homeland can a durable peace be established in the Middle East. Reiterating the Bangladesh Government's condemnation of the racist government's stand on Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa, he called for the restoration of the rights of the majority groups there.

Meets Ziaur Rahman

BK091715Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The North Korean vice president, Mr Kang Yang-uk, called on President Ziaur Rahman at Banga Bhavan in Dacca this evening. They discussed matters of mutual interest.

Talks Begin

BK091526Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Formal talks between Bangladesh and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea opened in Dacca today. The Bangladesh side was led by the vice president, Mr Justice Abdus Sattar, while the North Korean was led by its vice president, Mr Kang Yang-uk.

During the talks, Mr Justice Abdus Sattar said Bangladesh is working for stability in the South Asian subcontinent on the basis of mutual respect, sovereign equality and noninterference into each other's internal affairs. He said Bangladesh has always pursued the policy of nonalinement and identified itself with the hopes and aspirations of the Third World countries. He also reaffirmed Bangladesh's support for the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. He said Bangladesh desires to see peace in the Middle East and feels that this could not be achieved until the relevant UN resolutions on the issue are implemented.

The vice president also reiterated Bangladesh's support for [words indistinct] colonialism and Racialism.

Speaking on the occasion, the North Korean vice president said the present condition of the Third World countries is the result of the exploitation by colonial rulers. He said his country is in favor of strengthening the nonalined movement for unity and cohesion among the Third World countries.

The North Korean vice president said his country is eager to promote economic and technical cooperation with Bangladesh.

Mr Kang also rnewed the invitation from the North Korean president to President Ziaur Rahman to visit Pyongyang and expressed the hope that the visit will take place some time this year.

At the end of the talks, a Foreign Ministry spokesman told newsmen that the two sides decided to explore the areas for increasing economic cooperation.

The spokesman said it has been decided during the talks that a Bangladesh cultural delegation will visit Pyongyang in the near future. The Korean boxing coaches will also visit Bangladesh shortly to train (?frontline) boxers of the country, he added.

INDIA

VAJPAYEE LEAVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT TO MAURITIUS

BK100849Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, left Bombay this morning for Mauritius to take part in the 10th independence anniversary celebrations.

Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee is visiting Mauritius at the invitation of the Mauritian prime minister, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam.

Departure Statement

BK101001Y Delhi ISI in English 0832 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Text] External Affairs Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee left New Delhi for Mauritius on March 9 to participate in the independence day celebrations of that country, reports SAMACHAR.

Speaking to newsmen at airport before his departure, Vajpayee said he would hold discussions with Prime Minister Doctor Seewoosagur Ramgoolam and other leaders on bilateral matters including the establishment of an Indo-Mauritius joint economic commission.

Vajpayee said both India and Mauritius were nonaligned nations and they share equal attachment to the ideal of peace and international cooperation. He said Doctor Ramgoolam was held in very high esteem in India. Mauritius was playing a very prominent role among the African Nations. Vajpayee said: "I hope the result of my visit to Mauritius will help in further strengthening our friendly relations."

Vajpayee said Mauritius occupied a special position in the heart of Indians. This country's relations with Mauritius are extremely friendly and go back for centuries. There are many Indians in Mauritius who have adapted themselves to the new environment, but they have maintained a cultural and spiritual link with India.

Vajpayee is accompanied by M.A. Vellodi, secretary of the External Affairs Ministry and some high ranking officials. He was seen off at the airport by the Minister of State for External Affairs Somerendra Kundu.

GOVERNMENT SCORES ZAMBIAN STATEMENT ON GANDHI

BK091604Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The Government of India has expressed concern and regret at the Zambian prime minister, Mr Mainza Chona's letter in a London paper alleging harassment of Mrs Gandhi.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the letter not only amounts to unwarranted interference in India's internal affairs but also shows total ignorance of our democratic procedures and the process of law. Mr Chona's allegations are incorrect and without any foundation.

The Zambian high commissioner in New Delhi, Mr Axon Chalikulima, was called to the Foreign Office today and told that the fact that a head of a government of a friendly country like Zambia should have written such a letter was a matter of deep regret. Mr Chalikulima said he has got in touch with his government for a clarification. The Indian mission in Lusaka has also been asked to take up the matter with the Zambian Government.

PRC FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION ATTENDS RECEPTION IN DELHI

BK0910210Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The visiting Chinese good-will delegation was given a reception in New Delhi yesterday by the All-India Dr Dwarkanath Kotnis Memorial Committee at the (?Awan-E-Galib).

Speaking at the reception, the leader of the delegation, Mr Wang Ping-nan, said strains in Sino-Indian relations occupied just a small page in the 2,000-year-old history of friendship between the two countries.

Mr Wang said his delegation's visit comes at a time when the domestic situation in China is normal. He said China is now set to carry out the late Chairman Mao Tse-tung's directives, which included a shift in foreign policy and the establishment of friendly and normal relations with India.

Speaking at the function, the minister for information and broadcasting, Mr L. K. Advani, said there is reason for the government to feel satisfied over the improvement in relations with different countries, especially neighboring ones. But it would be misleading, he said, to say that all problems between India and China have been solved. He said what is a matter of satisfaction is that we have achieved step by step progress.

USSR AGREES TO SUPPLY HEAVY WATER TO INDIA

BK0916010Y Delhi ISI in English 1519 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have reached an agreement about the price and delivery terms for the second lot of heavy water from the USSR. The first lot of 55 tonnes out of the 200 tonnes originally agreed upon were received from the Soviet Union in 1976. This was stated in a written reply by Prime Minister Morarji Desai in the Rajya Sabha on March 9.

The following is the text of the reply:

A contract was entered into between Messrs Techsnabexport of the Government of USSR and the Department of Atomic Energy in September 1976 for the supply of 200 metric tonnes of heavy water, out of which 55 tonnes were received during 1976. The price and delivery terms in respect of the remaining quantity of 145 tonnes which was to be supplied in a phased manner in 1977 and 1978 were to be negotiated. The entire quantity of heavy water supplied by the USSR to the Government of India has required to be placed under the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. Discussions were therefore held between the Department of Atomic Energy and the International Atomic Energy Agency and an agreement was signed in November 1977. Subsequently, the price and delivery terms in respect of the second lot of heavy water (out of the remaining quantity of 145 tonnes) were negotiated with Messrs Techsnabexport and agreement has now been reached for the supply of 70 tons.

POLAND, INDIA SIGN SHIPPING ACCORD IN NEW DELHI 8 MAR

BK0910017 Delhi ISI in English 0851 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Text] A Polish economic delegation led by Under Secretary of Foreign Trade and Shipping of Poland T. Zylkowski on March 8 called on Minister of Energy P. Ramachandran in New Delhi. They discussed matters of mutual interest with regard to cooperation in the field of fishing trawlers.

Ramachandran, who is also the cochairman of the Indo-Polish joint commission, expressed his satisfaction in the understanding reached between the two countries. An Indo-Polish protocol on shipping was signed in New Delhi on March 8.

INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH YUGOSLAVIA

BK0811067 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 8 Mar 78 BK

[Text] India and Yugoslavia are to cooperate in metal manufacturing and the setting up of joint ventures in third countries. For this an agreement on indistrial cooperation has been signed between the two countries.

NEPAL

KING, MINISTER CONGRATULATE PRC, BURMA ON ELECTIONS

BK0816097 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 8 Mar 78 BK

[Text] His majesty the king has extended sincere felicitations to Mr Yeh Chien-ying on his election as the chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC and to President U Ne Win on the occasion of his reelection to the high office of president of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma.

In a message sent to Mr Yeh today, his majesty the king expressed the confidence that the tradition of cordial friendship and understanding which characterizes the friendly relations between Nepal and China would be further strengthened in the years to come. His majesty also expressed best wishes to the continued progress and prosperity of the Chinese role.

In a message of sincere felicitations and good wishes to U Ne Win, his majesty has expressed the confidence that the friendly relations so happily existing between Nepal and Burma will be further strengthened and consolidated during the tenure of U Ne Win's office as the president of Burma.

Prime Minister Mr Kirti Nidhi Bista on behalf of his colleagues and on his own behalf has expressed hearty felicitations and best wishes to Mr Hua Kuo-feng and to Mr U Maung Maung Kha on their reelection as the prime ministers of the PRC and the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma respectively.

In his message to Mr Hua, Prime Minister Mr Bista has also expressed the earnest hope that the cordial and friendly relations so happily existing between Nepal and China will be further strengthened and consolidated in the years to come.

In his message to Mr U Maung Maung Kha, Prime Minister Mr Bista expressed the hope that the close and friendly relations between Nepal and Burma will continue to grow during the tenure of office of Mr U Maung Maung Kha.

KATMANDU COURT ACQUITS KOIRALA IN STATE OFFENSE CASE

BK030913Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0903 GMT 3 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Katmandu, March 3 (AFP)--The one-man special tribunal this afternoon acquitted deposed Premier Bireshor Prashad Koirala and his two colleagues in the "Okhaldhunga arm raid" state offence case and released him unconditionally.

The one-man special court consisting of Judge Janak Man Shrestha in his 20-page judgment declared that Koirala and his two colleagues, Ganesh Man Singh and Tirtha Raj [were] "not guilty" of the Okhaldhunga arm raid case of December 1974.

A fourth person, Maresh Karmacha, 30, of the Okhaldhunga District, was sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment and fined 1,000 rupees for his involvement in the Okhaldhunga state offence case. The judgement of the special tribunal is subject to the approval of the "Regional Court".

Altogether five persons were involved in the Okhaldhunga armed raid case but the fifth person, former Industry Minister Bhadra Kali Mishra--whom the court had summoned had "absconded", therefore, his case was kept pending.

Mr. Shrestha in his judgment held that the case made by the government prosecution against Mr. Loirala, Mr Singh and Mr. Rai lacked enough "independent evidence" to convict them.

The judge in his verdict said: "Three of them (Koirala, Singh and Rai) were not connected with the Okhaldhunga armed raid case."

The prosecution had demanded the tribunal award the death sentence to Karmacha but it passed only 5 years' imprisonment with a 1,000 rupee fine ($80).

Senior advocate Kusum Shrestha defending both Koirala and Singh said that the prosecution could not produce "independent evidence to implicate either Singh or Mr. Koirala on the Okhaldhunga treason case."

One of the co-accused, retired Army Captain Y.B. Thapa, was already convicted last year and given the death sentence. The tribunal's judgement was upheld by the Supreme Cout.

Of the seven charges of treason against Mr. Koirala, he was found not fuilty of five cases. Two other cases including the charges of involvement in an attempt to organise a popular revolt will be taken up later.

Although Mr. Koirala was released unconditionally to enable him to proceed to New York for medical treatment, his colleague Mr. Singh remained under "judicial custody". He is expected to be released only after the Regional Court has confirmed the judgement of the special tribunal. According to Nepalese law the government can appeal to the Regional Court within 70 days.

PAKISTAN

DPRK'S PAK SONG-CHOL ARRIVES IN KARACHI 9 MAR

BK091642Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The vice president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr Pak Song-chol, is arriving in Islamabad tomorrow morning on a 3-day official visit to Pakistan. He arrived in Karachi a short while ago. The acting governor of Sind and other persons welcomed him.

He is bringing a message from President Kim Il-song for the chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator. Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq will receive Mr Pak Song-chol at Islamabad airport. The DPRK vice president, who is a member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Workers Party, will be accompanied by a 17-member delegation including the vice chairman of the Economic Committee, Mr (No Tae-sok), whose rank is equivalent to a vice premier. Mr Pak Song-chol's visit is a good-will one and is a continuation of the series of high-level contacts between the two countries.

Mr Pak Song-chol will hold formal talks with the chief martial law administrator tomorrow afternoon and attend a banquet to be given in his honor by the chief martial law administrator. The vice chairman of the DPRK Economic Committee will hold talks with the adviser of planning and coordination, Mr Ghulam Ishaque Khan, on further strengthening of economic cooperation between the two countries. The DPRK vice president will also meet President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry, who will invite him for a luncheon on 12 March. The same night the DPRK vice president will host a return banquet in honor of the chief martial law administrator. Mr Pak Song-chol will also visit the heavy mechanical complex near Taxilla and the Tarbela Dam.

The Radio Pakistan representative says Pakistan is committed to the policy of a peaceful reunification of the two parts of Korea without foreign interference.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH ROMANIA

BK091029Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0930 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Pakistan and Romania have signed a 2-year cultural exchange program. Under a protocol signed in Islamabad yesterday, both the countries will cooperate in the field of public health institutions. They will exchange staffs of universities to deliver lectures on mutual problems. A Romanian seat will be created at Qaid-E-Azam University and an Urdu seat at Bucharest University.

NUSRAT BHUTTO SAYS HER HUSBAND WILL APPEAL IF CONVICTED

BK091611Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1537 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[By Jean-Francois Le Mounier]

[Excerpts] Lahore, March 9 (AFP)--Political life in Pakistan has come to an abrupt standstill awaiting the verdict in the murder trial of former Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, due within a few days.

The military regime, which overthrew Mr. Bhutto last July, halted all political activity on March 1 for one month, presumably fearing incidents if he is condemned.

Several hundred militants from Mr. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) have also been detained as a preventive measure since March 7.

The former premier is accused of conspiring to assassinate a political rival in 1974, which resulted in the death of the latter's father during a shoot-out.

In an interview with AFP, Mr. Bhutto's wife Begum Nusrat, said he would appeal to the Supreme Court if he were not acquitted. Mr. Bhutto rejects the accusations and has said several times that he is the victim of a conspiracy designed to eliminate "the principal political leader in the country".

Despite being kept in isolated confinement, prison life had not lowered her husband's morale, said Mrs Bhutto. But his lawyer claims he has lost several kilos in weight since his detention at Kot Lakhpat jail in Lahore last September.

Mrs Bhutto, who visits her husband regularly, said he has high hopes of being acquitted.

His eldest daughter, Benazir Bhutto, will become president of the PPP if Mrs. Bhutto, who took over from her husband is removed from the post and from political life by the military authorities.

Said Miss Bhutto: "A condemnation of Qaid-E-Azam (People's leader) [father of the nation] Bhutto will be seen by the poor as a direct condemnation against them."

Despite its leader's imprisonment, the PPP is still a political force to be reckoned with, say numerous observers, particularly in the Punjab Province, the most densely populated in Pakistan.

Gen Ziaul Haq, head of the military government, has also recently implicitly recognized that after eight months, his regime has not succeeded totally in ridding Pakistani political life of "Bhuttoism".

Forced to postpone the general election he had promised for October 1977, General Zia declares now that this cannot take place until the government considers it will give "positive results".

The general has more or less openly accused the PPP for numerous incidents, including bomb attacks on irrigation canals in Province Sind and in several large towns since the beginning of the year.

PPP leaders deny taking part in these attacks, but say that violence would be practically unavoidable if Mr. Bhutto was handed a heavy sentence.

The official view, and that of the Pakistani National Alliance (PNA), Mr. Bhutto's former opposition party, does not totally exclude the possibility of incidents, but considers these would be of limited importance.

General Zia maintains that the population welcomed "with relief" the ban on political activity imposed on March 1. He said Pakistanis were worn out by more than a year of political activity and violent incidents.

MILITARY COUNCIL MEETS IN RAWALPINDI 9 MAR

BK101025Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0930 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The Military Council met in Rawalpindi yesterday and reviewed the general situation obtaining in the country. Besides the chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator, the meeting was attended by the chairman of joint chief of staff committee, the chief of the naval staff and the chief of the air staff.

BRIEFS

INDIAN DEFENSE DELEGATION--New Delhi, Mar 2 (AFP)--A high level delegation, led by Defence Secretary Gian Prakash, left today for Europe to hold exploratory talks for acquisition and manufacture of a deep penetration strike aircraft (DPSA) for the Indian Air Force. A technical team is already in Europe. Three aircraft are in view for a final choice from among them. They are Viggen (Swedish), Jaguar (Anglo-French) and Mirage F-1 (France). The delegation will visit all the three countries. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1540 GMT 2 Mar 78 BK]

ATOMIC ENERGY LOAN TO SRI LANKA--The International Atomic Energy Agency has approved for 1978, several new requests made by the Sri Lanka atomic energy authority under the agency's regular program for technical assistance. A major field of assistance will be in geochemical prospection for the exploration and assessment of nuclear raw materials in Sri Lanka. This assistance is to the Geological Survey Department. In addition, the IAEA will provide training fellowships, facilities for participation in seminars and conferences, scientific visits, technician training and research contracts. It will provide expert services, advice and visits by its specialized staff when the need arises. Assistance by the IAEA to Sri Lanka for 1978 is expected to be around $200,000. The IAEA already assists Sri Lanka in projects in agriculture, hydrology, medicine and training. [Colombo Ceylon DAILY NEWS in English 28 Feb 78 p 1 BK]

SRI LANKAN HYDROPOWER PROJECT--The country's second largest hydropower scheme, the (Sangilikandarawa) project, is to be inaugurated soon. The Sri Lanka Government had entered into an agreement with the Soviet Union for technical and financial aid for the construction of the project. [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Mar 78 BK]

SRI LANKA 1977 TEA EXPORTS--Colombo, March 2, Lanka Puwath--Sri Lanka earned more than 3.5 billion rupees on tea exports last year, according to the Ceylon Tea Promotion Bureau. This is 1.4 billion rupees more than the earnings in 1976. Pakistan, Britain, the United States and Iraq were the main buyers. Libya has been the leading purchaser of packeted tea for many years. It is expected that Libya will further increase its purchases following the recently concluded agreement with Sri Lanka. Japan, South Africa and Iran are among the other nations which buy our best priced teas. Tea production last year totalled 208.5 million kilos, compared with the previous year's total of 196.6 million kilos. [Text] [Colombo SUN in English 3 Mar 78 p 1 BK]

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